

MAY-JUNE 2006

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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

WHY AMERICA IS HELPLESS TO SOLVE IT

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VOL. IV | NO. 3 | MAY-JUNE 2006

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Signs and flags fill the streets at an immigration rally in Dallas, Texas (April 2006).

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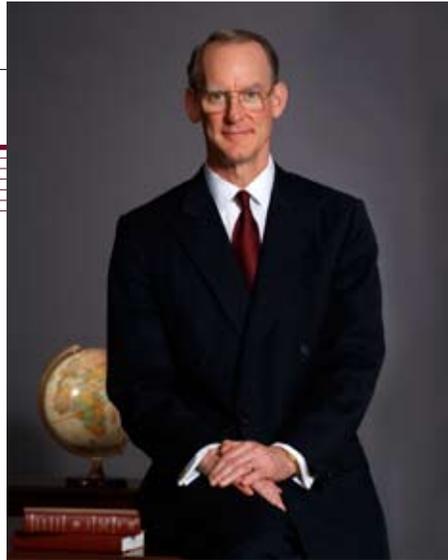
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



A World Held Hostage

THE WORLD HAS REACHED the twenty-first century. All my grandparents were born in the *nineteenth* century. Within that time span—just a little over one hundred years—the world has changed beyond recognition. Mankind now stands on the threshold of annihilation by weapons of mass destruction, with the frightening specter of terrorism spanning the globe.

World conditions grow more ominous as the news of each day seems worse than the last. Events are speeding toward a great crisis at the close of this age. How did there come to be such appalling evils and terrible suffering on a worldwide scale? And why have world leaders failed to improve the countries they govern and the world at large? What is wrong? Why has progress in knowledge, science and technology not delivered man from his problems? Why does civilization stand on the brink of catastrophe—even extinction—without some kind of intervention and rescue?

Many know *something* is wrong—but do not know *what*. The supposed experts lack answers to life's greatest questions.

Few understand that there *is* a supreme purpose that God is working out here below. Fewer still know *what* this purpose is—they do not understand the forces at work that have controlled civilization since man first appeared on earth.

The Greatest Kidnapping

Most assume that things are the way they are because mankind has evolved to its present state or condition. This thinking permeates modern education but it is a false—an entirely **WRONG**—premise. Evolution is a fiction created by men who have been led to this theory by the one who seeks to blind all the inhabitants of earth to God's awesome plan—His staggering purpose for mankind.

Those who hold to the evolutionary theory are prevented—actually blocked!—from comprehending *why* conditions on earth are as they are. Many statesmen, leaders and thinkers do feel trapped by these conditions, and the general flow of world events, and unable to do anything about them. Indeed, they *are* trapped. But we need to understand why.

This is *not* God's world. It is *cut off* from Him and held hostage by an unseen **SUPER KIDNAPPER**. All of humanity has been deceived into believing the soothing words of this great **CAPTOR**, thinking themselves better off under his care and leadership. I speak of Satan the devil and his hijacking—6,000 years ago—of Adam and Eve and all of the inhabitants of planet Earth ever after! But the world has remained a *willing* captive ever since.

Anyone who reads newspapers understands kidnapping. This crime often involves executives of large companies, whose release is obtained through paying a ransom. Hijackers work in the same way, except that this crime usually involves seizing an aircraft, bus or some other type of vehicle full of victims.

Most hostage victims are captives until someone either performs a daring rescue or a ransom is paid. Earth is now in a state of captivity, requiring supernatural deliverance—rescue—through ransom payment.

Here is modern man's predicament: Imagine picking up a twenty-chapter book and trying to understand it by starting with the last chapter. You would be lost, completely unable to understand the meaning of persons and events described. In the same way, none can understand events *in the modern world* because they do not have proper background of what has happened in the previous chapters of mankind's existence on earth. And it is the very *first* chapter of the story of humanity that is key to *all* "nineteen chapters" that follow.

Whose World is This?

You may have supposed that the governments of modern nations reflect God's way. This is almost everyone's assumption. Actually, though He does, in fact, establish and remove nations, this is *not* God's world. This is why Jesus Christ foretold the coming of God's world-ruling super-government to replace the confused, ineffective and inefficient governments of man. These governments are powerless to solve any of the world's biggest problems.

How did the world come to be the way that it is? Why is it in such a state of confusion, suffering and ignorance? Why can't governments get along—avoid war—find peace—reach agreement? Why such constant instability, scandal and division among leaders and seemingly endless revolutions and military coups? Why is there no shortage of demagogues, dictators and revolutionaries, who always promise to make things better, yet are only able to preside over a continual worsening of problems and conditions?

Despite these conditions, most theologians, religionists and ministers blindly assume that this is God's world—that it reflects His guidance,

His way. Therefore, they conclude that if "all Christians would work together, in love and unity, to make this world and its governments a safer and better place for all, they could bring peace, happiness and prosperity to the world." This is a completely wrong view. Nowhere did Jesus say, "Go into all the world and strive to make it a better place by becoming part of it." He often said, "Go into all the world and *preach the gospel*." Christ did not come to make *this* world a better place. He came to announce the coming of a better world, under *His* government!

In short, blind, deceived men think that they can bring world peace through human effort alone. Ironically, this quest often involves "Christian" nations striving to achieve peace through *war*. They see certain evil forces at work and feel compelled to "do something about it." They assume that Christ would be an "activist," seeking to "make the world a better place."

Be honest! Haven't you heard this many times? Haven't you heard churches urge people to "get involved," or "take a stand," or something similar, in order to improve some local, national or world problem?

Who Holds Sway Over Earth?

Satan the devil is called the "god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4), the "prince of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) and the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). The apostle John wrote that he "deceives the whole world" (Rev. 12:9).

Satan rebelled against God's government *prior* to the re-creation of Earth (Gen. 1:1-3) and the creation of Adam and Eve. He had led one-third of all angels into rebellion (II Pet. 2:4; Rev. 12:4). Isaiah 14:12-14 reveals that he had ruled the earth, and Ezekiel 28:15 shows that he was a created being—a great, perfect archangel. He remains as ruler over earth until Christ's Second Coming. Christ qualified to replace him at

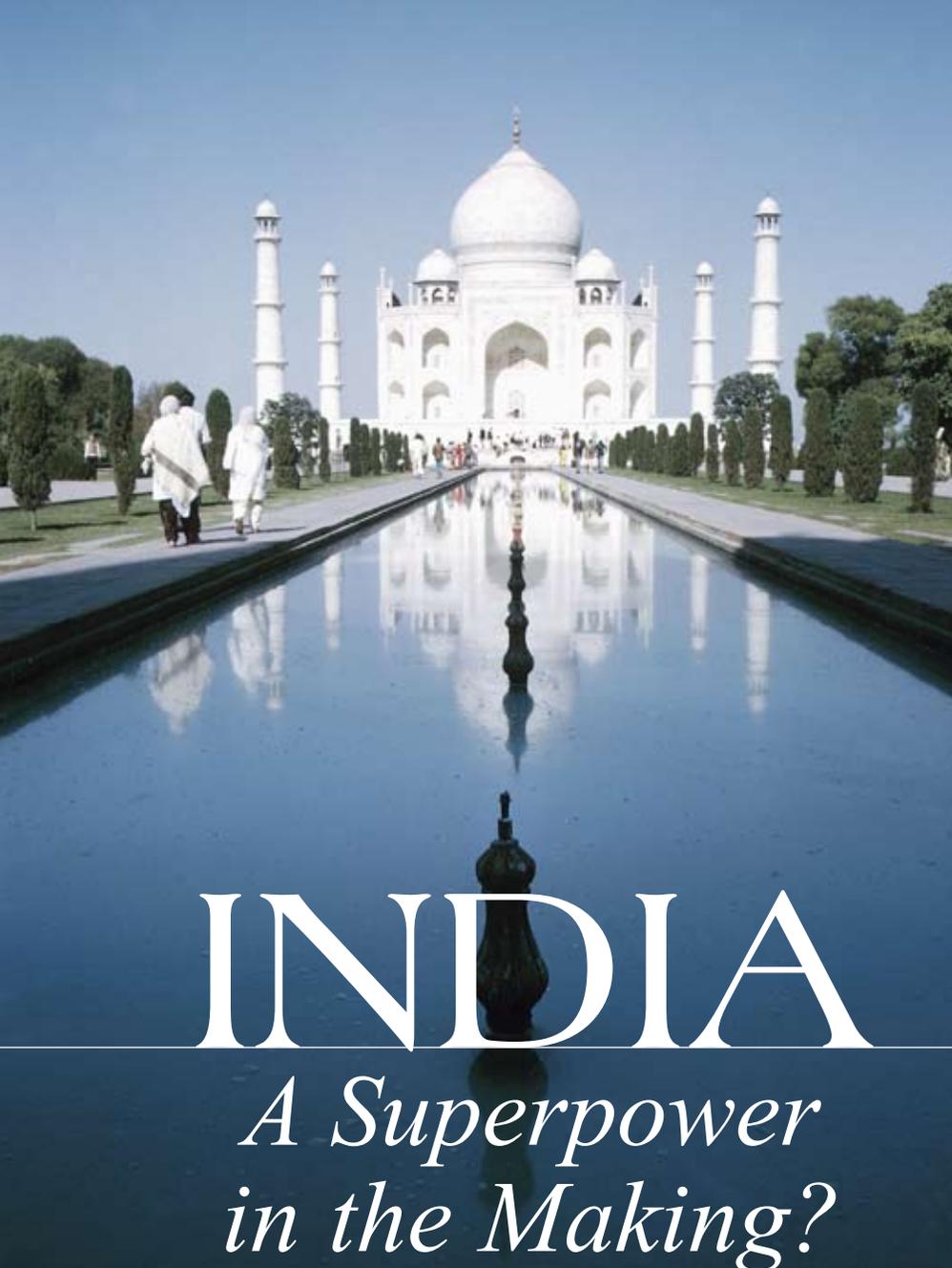
His First Coming. (Read our booklet *Who is the DEVIL?* It focuses on identifying who and what the devil is—as Lucifer, before his rebellion, and Satan afterwards.)

So, Satan was lying in wait for "baby" Adam and Eve. They were created on the sixth day of the week, Friday, rested on the Sabbath, Saturday, and were seduced by Satan (Gen. 3:1-6) the next day, Sunday—at the age of *two days old*. No two-day-old child knows how to discern right from wrong. Adam and Eve just *thought* they were grown-up enough to make their own decisions. Like most children today, they chose not to listen to their Parent, God. Instead, they believed Satan's lie that they would not "surely die." In so doing, they rejected the rule of God's government in their lives.

If Adam had obeyed God's instruction, he could have qualified to replace Satan and restore the government of God on earth. He chose *captivity* instead.

Now read this account: "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yes, has God said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die. And the serpent said unto the woman, You shall not surely die: For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they

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INDIA

A Superpower in the Making?

THE RISE OF THIS GROWING NATION WILL CHANGE THE BALANCE OF POWER IN ASIA—AND POTENTIALLY THE WORLD.

BY JEFFREY R. AMBROSE

WITH NEARLY 1.1 billion inhabitants, India is the second largest country on earth in population, and seventh largest in geographical area, over 1.1 million square miles. This is almost 1,000 people for every square mile of area nationwide—much denser than even China.

Since achieving independence from British rule in 1947, it has seen its share of conflict, struggle and setbacks. Although India still faces many challenges, it is now poised to reach a higher position on the world scene than at any previous time.

The Indian economy has grown an average of around 6% annually over the past decade and 8% per year

over the past three years—among the fastest rates in the world. It boasts an emerging middle class and increasing gross domestic product, exports, employment and foreign investment. This is complemented by a roaring stock market (index value up by a third in 2005 and by 200% since 2001), low external debt and large foreign exchange reserves.

Recent visits from leaders and officials from the United States, France, Germany and Russia have spotlighted India's rise. These wealthier nations see India as a trading partner with enormous potential.

Although it has not yet matched the financial performance of China—currently the fastest-growing economy in the world—according to some analysts, India shows even more long-term potential for rapid growth. Leaders from both nations have discussed the creation of a Chinese-Indian common market based on the European Union model. Although only an idea at present, if realized, it would be the largest economic system in the world, home for about 2.5 billion consumers—almost 40% of the human race (or 3 of every 8 people on earth)!

India's growth becomes more impressive in light of the fact that it is driven by a fraction of its population. Much of the nation remains a picture of rural poverty. Nearly all foreign investment in India goes to its six most urban states, with 22 other less developed states virtually ignored. This gap between city and country is keenly felt in places such as Gurgaon, a suburb of the Indian capital New Delhi: "In a land still plagued by deep poverty and backwardness, Gurgaon has become a renowned home of international call centers, business-processing operations, and information-technology firms. There are gleaming, glass-paned high-tech towers, condominium blocks, multiplexes, and shopping malls, where Indians dine at Ruby Tuesday, browse for Samsung electronics, or kick the tires at a Toyota, Ford, or Chevy dealer.

If one overlooks the dusty pockets of poverty nearby, a few water buffaloes picking at garbage near shantytowns, the look is more Southern California office park than the India of yore” (*U.S. News and World Report*).

Despite the problems seen in India’s underdeveloped countryside—for example, massive unmet infrastructure needs; more illiterate citizens than any other single nation—there are several areas in which the nation excels. These particular specialized talents have allowed a tiny percentage of the populace—perhaps less than 1%—to spearhead its move toward a higher standing in the world order.

Intellectual Capital

India’s economy is divided between agriculture (which accounts for a quarter of the gross national product), manufacturing (constituting another quarter) and the high-tech service sector, which now makes up fully half of the gross national product. Striving to become a “knowledge superpower,” it hopes to skip the intermediate step of industrial development that has preceded other nations’ march into the Information Age.

Scientific and information technology companies from around the world are opening research and development labs in India—more than 100 in the past five years. One mainstay of the new economy is software development, with ever more global firms outsourcing to India the time-intensive work of programming. Businesses worldwide also rely on the country for customer service—phone calls from around the world are directed to call centers in Indian cities such as Bangalore. Other developing markets include pharmaceutical and biotechnology research. Currently, the majority of top American companies send some of their IT work to India, and there is little evidence of a slowdown in this trend.

The business world is also looking in India’s direction. Graduates of the nation’s business programs are in high demand among multinational corporations, with each graduating class com-

manding a higher average salary than the one before. Those who complete MBA degrees at schools such as the Indian Institute of Management can now expect starting salaries ranging from \$75,000 (USD) at Indian firms to over \$200,000 outside the country. This is comparable to graduates of top American business schools such as Harvard, Stanford and Dartmouth—testimony to the market value of Indian talent in this area of study.

Military Buildup

As its clout has grown, India has placed a high priority on improving its military capabilities as well.

New Delhi has not joined 187 other nations in signing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), and appeared on the world’s radar screen as a nuclear-armed nation in May 1998, with the detonation of five warheads in the desert near the border of Pakistan. This disturbed many governments around the globe, naturally including that of Pakistan, which responded with nuclear tests of its own.

This stand-off was the turning point that began India’s pursuit of a full-fledged nuclear weapons program. According to *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, additional nuclear missile tests occurred in the summer of 2004; since then, the Indian Defense Ministry has earmarked \$2 billion annually to build 300 to 400 weapons over the next 5 to 7 years.

India maintains a “no first strike” nuclear policy, and asserts that it only seeks enough nuclear weaponry to effectively deter aggressors. U.S. President George W. Bush, during a March 2006 visit with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, announced cooperation between the two countries on civilian nuclear programs, and had previously called India a “responsible” nuclear nation (*Der Spiegel*). These measures drew an American diplomatic line between India and other nations that have nixed participation in the NPT, such as North Korea and Iran.

Whatever its nuclear aspirations, the country has a long military shopping list. Last year, it announced plans

to build the first aircraft carrier ever put to sea by a developing nation, and to lease two nuclear submarines from Russia. America has openly discussed the sale of naval vessels, combat aircraft, patrol aircraft and helicopters to India. One former U.S. ambassador to India opined, “Of course we should sell advanced weaponry to India. The million-man Indian army actually fights, unlike the post-modern militaries of many of our European allies” (*The Economist*).

A Turning Point in Relations With China?

Many have compared India’s pattern of growth to its neighbor, China. The countries have much in common—physical borders, immense populations, similar challenges, ancient civilizations, and quickly-rising economies. India also measures itself against China, coveting its economic power and international standing, including its permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Though a degree of tension does remain between the two nations, with lingering memories of the brief 1962 war in which China soundly defeated India, the relationship between these two Asian giants is warming up. Trade between them is now increasing at a vigorous pace, and diplomatic relations are at a post-1962 highpoint. Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, during a recent visit to New Delhi, hailed cooperation between the two nations as the driving force of a new “Asian Century.” Indian Prime Minister Singh spoke of the potential for India and China to rearrange the world order by working together.

Many have pointed out that their economic strengths seem to be tailor-made for a partnership. India seeks to be a major player in the computer software world in the same way that China is in the area of hardware. Cooperation between Beijing and New Delhi could prove a dominant force in the information technology market.

Both nations have a voracious appetite for natural resources, and a recent energy deal neatly symbolized

the new Sino-Indian dynamic: India acquired a 20% share in the development of the largest onshore oil field in Iran. The venture happens to be operated, and 50% owned, by Sinopec—China’s state-run oil company.

However, India could seek to undercut China’s manufacturing prices (as China did with many Southeast Asian countries in the 1990s). But it is more likely to pursue a different segment of the world market by producing higher-quality goods, as well as entirely different products.

Time will tell exactly how the relationship will mix competition and cooperation. These two nations both aspire to “first-world” status—and economic gains could be the incentive for a more tightly allied Asia.

Between East and West

With its newfound power, India faces a dilemma: Should it ultimately pursue closer ties with Western nations, or with other Asian countries?

After India gained independence, its first prime minister spoke of an Asian renaissance, envisioning a tightly bound continent changing the post-World War II landscape. Though premature at the time, the idea is now more feasible than any time since the Cold War era. Along with the improving relations with China, India is also friendly with Russia and Japan. And, as of 2004, the value of India’s trade with other Asian nations surpassed that of exchange with the United States and Western Europe put together (*International Herald Tribune*).

But the United States—after court-ing India’s arch-rival Pakistan as an ally in the war on terror after the September 11 attacks—is now distancing itself somewhat from the current Islamabad regime led by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, focusing on India instead. India’s common



“Whatever its nuclear aspirations, [India] has a long military shopping list. Last year, it announced plans to build the first aircraft carrier ever put to sea by a developing nation, and to lease two nuclear submarines from Russia.”

ground with the U.S. includes liberal democratic government, capitalism and, among the more educated urban residents, the English language.

However, America’s courting of India is viewed by some as a way to limit and contain Chinese influence in Asia. Some Indians resent this perception of their nation as a pawn of the U.S. Though they appreciate the American lifestyle and culture, much of the Indian population still sees this lone superpower as a bully.

While it may be able to dance with both partners alternately for a while, India will eventually be forced to choose. Which way will this nation turn?

“Kings of the East”

We need not merely guess where world events will ultimately lead.

While many of the details remain to be seen, the overall framework of the future has been recorded in advance in one book—the Holy Bible.

In nations such as India, the size of population alone pulls them toward superpower status. Bible prophecy describes global power blocs—superpowers, or groups of superpowers—that will be prominent at the end of the age, shortly before Jesus Christ returns.

These powers will be based in the north (Europe), the south (the Arab world), and the “kings of the East”—a group of Asian nations that will band together, eventually fielding a standing army of *two hundred million* (Rev. 16:12; 9:16; Dan. 11)!

The nations of the West, including the United States, are headed for hard times as a result of their national and personal sins against the God that inspired the Bible. He reveals that they will be forsaken by their allies, called “lovers” in Scripture:

“And when you are spoiled, what will you do? Though you clothe yourself with crimson, though you deck yourself with ornaments of gold, though you rend your face with painting, in vain shall you make yourself fair; your *lovers* will despise you, they will seek your life...All your *lovers* have forgotten you; they seek you not; for I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of your iniquity; because your sins were increased” (Jer. 4:30; 30:14).

India is today one of these “lovers,” but one that will soon prove to be something very different. So will other nations that Western countries now consider to be allies.

Keep watching India’s growth toward superpower status—just one part of the inevitable rise of Asia! □

RIOT!



THE SPIRIT OF DISOBEDIENCE

ANGER—FRUSTRATION—HATRED—DISCONTENT—RAGE. THESE FAN THE FLAMES OF ALL RIOTS. BUT WHAT IS THE **ROOT CAUSE?**

BY CHESTER R. ECHELBARGER

MILLIONS STORMED into the streets of Paris to protest a new labor law that was scheduled to go into effect in April 2006. The rioting, looting and burning left in its wake many burned buildings, scorched vehicles and reportedly even a number of deaths. The objective of the rioting youth was to force a repeal of the new legislation.

The new law was designed to change a long-standing labor law that protected jobs. The present law ensures that, after the first six months of work, an individual is guaranteed employment for life (unless he commits a crime or commits fraud against his employer). For decades, the citizens of France have enjoyed a mandate of lifetime employment.

Under the proposed change in the labor laws, employers had the right to terminate at will, meaning without cause, any employee under the age of 26. This could occur at anytime within two years of being hired. With a national unemployment rate of around 21%, many of the French youth—who felt they were being unfairly targeted—protested against this measure.

Paradoxically, the law that provoked millions of French protesters was actu-

ally intended to *create* employment. The reasoning behind the proposed change was that current employment laws are so strict that employers are reluctant to hire new employees. These laws make recruiting for new hires a costly and arduous process. The thinking was that loosening the reins of the current law would introduce greater flexibility into the labor market and encourage employers to hire more young people.

This move was interpreted as having the opposite intentions. Mass discontent soon deteriorated into chaos in the streets. Rather than being accepted as a stop-gap solution, the measure actually focused attention on France's chronic unemployment problem.

After weeks of protests, blockaded universities and riots, the country's youth had once again dealt a humiliating blow to France's center-right government, forcing it to reconsider the unpopular legal change.

Months earlier, in November 2005, rioting and civil unrest had spread from the immigrant communities of Paris suburbs to some 300 towns across the country. It was reported that this national crisis was sparked by the accidental deaths of two French-African teenagers who were said to be hiding from police.

Many in the affected communities took offense at the remarks of Interior Minister Nicholas Sarkozy, who called

the troublemakers “scum” and “riff-raff,” and promised to clean out the problem areas with a power hose.

The Government's Response

The crisis has forced France to take a long, hard look at some of its policies. One long ignored issue is the nation's failure to integrate its African and Muslim minorities. Over time, this disregarded issue grew into a volatile mixture that needed only a spark to cause it to explode into the streets.

This was also reflected in the nationwide anger about high unemployment and discrimination, which was further inflamed by the reaction of government officials. France has taken a tough stance on the rioters, with the interior minister saying that local authorities were instructed to deport foreigners convicted of involvement. But this only served to pour gasoline on the fire of frustration among French-born immigrants from the nation's former colonies.

Calling for calm, President Jacques Chirac attempted to defuse civil unrest with words of appeasement. Mr. Chirac's personal intervention attests to the magnitude of the crisis. He acknowledged the ongoing frustrations of troubled neighborhoods, but also said that violence was not the answer, and that efforts must be stepped up to combat it.

At a news conference held with Spain's visiting prime minister, Mr. Chirac commented, “There is a need to respond strongly and rapidly to the undeniable problems faced by many residents of underprivileged neigh-

borhoods around our cities,” adding, “Whatever our origins, we are all the children of the republic, and we can expect the same rights” (MSNBC).

But he also pointed at the parents, saying, “Too many minors” have joined the violence, and that some were “pushed to the fore by their elders” (ibid.).

The Real Problem

Rioting is not a new phenomenon. A riot could happen just about anywhere, if enough hatred and discontent infected a large number of people. It is self-driven by a mob mentality seeking to gain the upper hand. But does that exact true justice? Does it get to the root of the problem?

Many have justified riots by claiming to seek justice, to right wrongs, to find vindication in a corrupt system of injustice. But look at the poisonous *fruits* of rioting: intimidation, violence, destruction, theft, mutilation, sexual assault and murder. Where is the justice in these?

The Bible—which is the foundation of true knowledge—warns all men, “*You shall not follow a multitude to do evil*” (Ex. 23:2). Riots are forbidden! No matter how just a cause may seem, in God’s eyes there is no such thing as seeking justice through a mob bent on revenge.

To riot is to disobey God, and this spirit of disobedience comes from a source: “Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, *according to the prince of the power of the air*, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience” (Eph 2:2). Like a 24-hour satellite station, Satan the devil—whom Scripture identifies as “the god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4)—broadcasts carnal thoughts, attitudes, moods and ideas. He is the author of the chaos, confusion, violence and depravity that always result from rioting. In fact, because so many live a whole lifestyle that resembles a riot, the Christian so often is condemned for having changed to conduct that excludes this behavior: “lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

Wherein they think it strange that you run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you” (I Pet. 4:3-4).

Man’s social problems—whether they involve individuals or communities, or are national or global—cannot be solved through human effort alone. This is because the *ROOT* of his problems is *spiritual* in nature; trying to address his problems with physical solutions, based on human knowledge, is futile. It does not remedy the *CAUSE*, but rather, at best, temporarily treats the *EFFECTS*. Man—of himself—does not have the proper framework within his fund of physical knowledge to properly analyze and exact lasting solutions that address the cause.

God’s revealed spiritual laws provide the only sound framework to properly evaluate and prioritize physical information and spiritual understanding. Without that framework, which has been sorely missing from the world’s fund of knowledge, problem-solving is a hit-or-miss proposition—mostly resulting in “misses.”

No wonder God declares, “My people are destroyed *for lack of knowledge*” (Hos. 4:6). That same verse says they have “rejected knowledge”—spiritual knowledge—and they have “forgotten the law of God.” Yes, in this age of the Internet, information, knowledge and learning are abundant, but the true knowledge of God is missing. It has been rejected, laid aside and even impugned by humanity.

No individual or group is solely guilty, because all human beings have participated in this ignorance since creation. Throughout history, men have excluded God’s revealed spiritual laws from their knowledge. They have willingly chosen to be ignorant of the laws that would solve all man’s social problems. Human beings, led by carnal nature, do not want to be under the subjection of their Creator (Rom. 8:7).

This little understood cause of the world’s ills—the rejection of the essential spiritual foundation—has *everything* to do with why the world does not have peace! It is the *CENTRAL REASON* for the problems plaguing mankind—whether

they are illegal drugs, terrorism, poverty, crime or rioting. GOD must be brought into the picture, and not in the “believe and be saved” religious mentality so prevalent today—but the *REVEALED KNOWLEDGE* of the true God, His laws and the great purpose He is working out on earth.

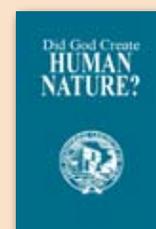
Certainly, the churches of this world have failed to teach this. You owe it to yourself to discover what is written in the pages of your Bible. It identifies the spiritual causes of violent crime and other social problems troubling mankind. And more importantly, God’s Word possesses the long-range *solutions* that will one day be put into force throughout the earth.

The world at large has been fooled into mass disobedience (Rev. 12:9)—led down the wrong path. But this will soon be remedied.

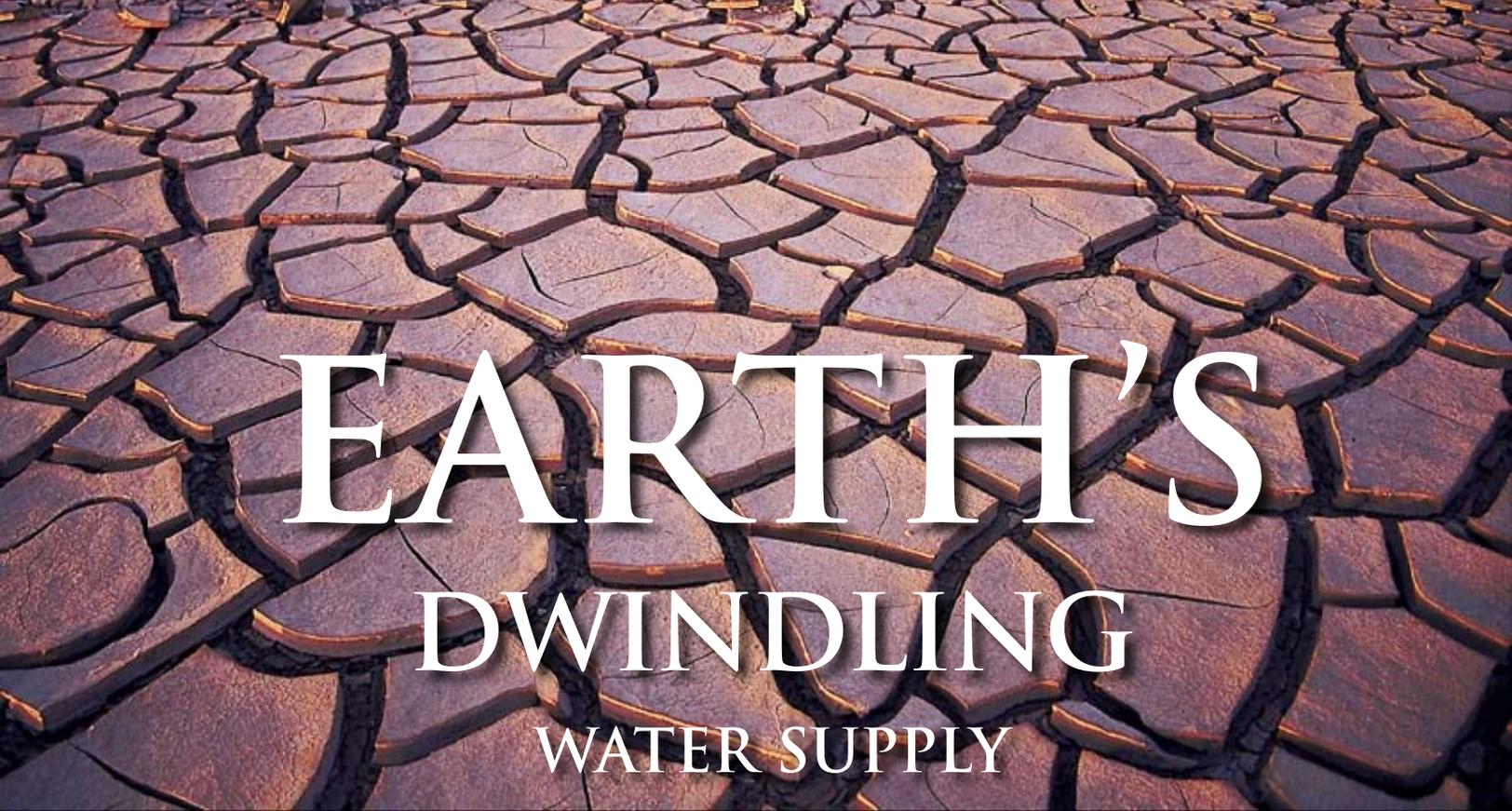
This will be accomplished by Jesus Christ, when He returns to restore God’s government on the earth. Under Him, this world will be ruled by the kingdom of God. At that time, knowledge of the true God and His ways will no longer be suppressed, ignored, glossed over or covered up. No longer will humanity struggle to determine good and evil based on incomplete humanly-acquired knowledge.

Violent crime will pass into the pages of history, as God intervenes in human affairs to set up His government over all nations. Hostility between human beings will become a thing of the past. The laws of God will be taught in a restructured, worldwide educational system (Isa. 2:2-4). Every facet of life will be affected, resulting in a prosperous, happy world, filled with true learning: “For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Isa. 11:9).

Thankfully, that world is coming sooner than many think! □



SUGGESTED READING:
What is HUMAN NATURE?
Why does it exist? *Where* did it come from? Did God create it? *Why* is it so selfish and evil? Few have understood this subject. Here is the truth.



EARTH'S DWINDLING WATER SUPPLY

It has been estimated that around 90% of disasters—hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, etc.—are water-related. Could the world be headed for a major water crisis? Is any part of the earth immune to water supply problems?

WHEN SOMEONE in the Western world is asked his opinion about water scarcity, he might respond with some concern for those starving in Africa, or perhaps India. He will probably assume regional droughts in his own rich country to be temporary inconveniences that can be addressed by rationing and conservation.

“Crisis? What crisis?” says the archetypical, self-assured Westerner. “It will never happen here.”

Or can it?

In the West, droughts and floods are largely attributed to weather cycles and global warming. Not much serious consideration is given to the *real* underlying causes of present “inconveniences.” And, while water problems in the English-speaking countries of the world are intensifying, it is obvious that they have not reached a crisis stage—yet.

However, this is not the case in numerous regions throughout the planet. Many areas are already under stress from lack of water and a growing population. With expanding deserts, deforestation and growing droughts, everyone should be concerned about potential worldwide calamity caused by a diminished water supply.

Where is the Water?

When viewed from space, Earth is a magnificent blue planetary gem that appears to have a limitless supply of water. Indeed, at least 70% of its surface is covered by water.

But most is salt water, located largely in the oceans and seas. Only 3% of all the water is freshwater, safe for drinking—and most of this is unavailable for human use. Roughly a full three quarters of all freshwater is part of the frozen and largely uninhabited ice caps and glaciers. What remains for our use is about 1% of the total. (North America’s Great Lakes and Russia’s Lake Baikal make up

about two-fifths of this volume.)

The hydrological cycle acts as a huge desalination unit as the sun’s energy transports freshwater in the form of vapor from the oceans over land. Rainwater and snow are distributed throughout the earth’s continents, but not equally.

Approximately 75% of annual rain falls in areas inhabited by only one-third of the earth’s population. For example, 20% of all rainfall descends upon the dense jungles of the Amazon River basin in South America each year. Yet this vast region is inhabited by less than 10 million people.

Across the Atlantic Ocean, roughly 30% of Africa’s annual rainfall is deposited along the Congo River and its tributaries—an area that is inhabited by only about 10% of the continent’s total population.

Also consider that, although Asia experiences around 31% of the earth’s annual rainfall, the per capita availability is just over 4,700 cubic meters per year, per person. In contrast, per-

capita availability in North America stands at over 19,000 cubic meters.

In short, the above unequal distribution can be attributed to extremely complex ocean currents and temperature, latitudes and their relationship to the sun's distance, atmospheric "jet streams," and variations in the earth's atmospheric temperature. These physical conditions have, indeed, been altered by man through his abuse of the earth.

The Hydraulic Economy

Water—and lots of it—is crucial to any prosperous economy. It is no coincidence that the powerful nations of the world are located in areas with an abundant water supply. Worldwide, agricultural uses account for about 69% of the total, while industry uses around 23%.

Industrialized nations use less percentage of water for agriculture; more is used for industrial purposes. Conversely, the third world must devote a greater share to its agriculture, due to farming inefficiencies, as well as water scarcity and lack of industry.

These differences are huge. The continent of Africa, for example, devotes a full 88% of all water to agriculture, 7% to domestic purposes and only 5% to industry. Asia must soak its crops with a similar 86% of its water, using only 8% for industry and 6% for domestic use. India is at 90% for agricultural use, 7% for industry and 3% for private consumption. Conversely, Europe's industry uses 54% of all water, with agriculture consuming 33% and domestic use at 13%.

Water usage increased six-fold in the 20th century, at twice the rate of population growth. Americans used as little as 7 gallons of water per day 100 years ago. But today, with readily available water in homes and offices across the country, usage has skyrocketed to more than 145 gallons of water per day!

The exponential increases in consumption by the developed

world can be largely attributed to more advanced methods of pumping and distribution. While a person—usually women and girls—living in Asia or Africa may literally walk miles (often over three hours) to retrieve available water by hand, those in the West can simply turn a faucet and have all the water they need.

Along with the huge increase in worldwide consumption is waste. In many places of the world, 30 to 40% or more of water goes unaccounted for, caused by water leakages in pipes and canals, and illegal connections. As the third world nations struggle to develop, world per-capita water use is also increasing exponentially, not simply in a linear manner. Much of this increase can be attributed to human migration toward population centers, as it is estimated that half of humanity will be living in towns and cities by 2007.

Consequently, within the next 20 years, the worldwide average availability of water-per-person is expected to decrease by more than one-third—and *only* if weather patterns remain favorable.

Misuse and Pollution

Let's take a look at civilization's critical need for water. The basic need to feed the earth's people requires incredible amounts of water. For example, a one-acre cornfield loses over 4,000 gallons of water per day just in evaporation. A single pound of potatoes requires 1,000 pounds of water for its production. Or, generally, one ton of

produce requires around 1,000 tons of water. Astonishing!

Perhaps more astonishing is a breakdown of water totals required for some other common foods:

- Apple: 16 gallons
- Orange: 22 gallons
- Egg: 85 gallons
- Loaf of bread: 150 gallons
- Pound of beef: 3,000 gallons

Agriculture is also the biggest polluter of freshwater resources—accounting for more than 70% of water pollution in the United States. In America alone, agricultural chemicals (including pesticides) have eroded sediment and, combined with animal waste, have seriously degraded 173,000 miles of waterways.

The problem is no less serious in other countries. In India, for example, more than 4 million hectares of agricultural land have been abandoned because of salt deposits and water logging caused by irrigation.

Whether pumped from an aquifer or distributed to crops from surface reservoirs, water eventually makes its way back to the sea as runoff. What returns to rivers and streams after agricultural use contains harmful toxins, salts, sediments and pathogens.

Industrial pollution also contributes to compromised water quality. At least 70,000 different chemicals are used regularly throughout the world, and there are between 200 and 400 toxic chemicals that contaminate the world's waterways. It is also estimated that at least 1,000 new chemicals are introduced every year! When these industrial wastes are combined with agricultural runoff, the problem of freshwater pollution becomes mountainous.

While it is true that advances in water chemistry as it relates to water treatment have done much to clean up the rivers and lakes in the industrialized world, over 90% of Europe's rivers have nitrate levels that exceed established health thresholds, and one-half of the continent's lakes are low in oxygen. The process, called *eutrophication*, occurs

“Along with the huge increase in worldwide consumption is waste. In many places of the world, 30 to 40% or more of water goes unaccounted for, caused by water leakages in pipes and canals, and illegal connections.”

WHAT IS DESALINATION?

BY GABRIEL N. LISCHAK

FEW WOULD DISAGREE that the planet is running out of sources of vitally important freshwater. And—as the worldwide population continues to rapidly increase, and as droughts continue to plague the planet—most would agree that something needs to be done quickly to alleviate this growing concern. Otherwise, by 2025, two-thirds of the world's population could live in countries with severe water shortages.

With 97% of the planet's water found in the oceans, one possible solution is *desalination*. This term refers to any of several processes that remove salt and other fine particulates from ocean water, treated wastewater and brackish water (a mixture of fresh- and saltwater). More than 100 countries desalinate water; Saudi Arabia leads the way, accounting for 24% of the world's capacity.

Of the many desalination methods that exist, *reverse osmosis* is the most common, constituting 47.2% of installed desalination

capacity worldwide, as of July 2004. Reverse osmosis is accomplished by pumping seawater at high pressure through a permeable material that allows the water to pass through, but not the salt and other minerals. This is often done in multiple stages. The end result of the entire procedure is usable freshwater. Close to 50% of the supplied water is recovered, with the other half rendered unusable due to the high mineral content. Israel is home to the planet's largest reverse osmosis plant, capable of producing 100 million cubic meters of water per year.

Another popular method of desalination is known as *distillation*. This process uses evaporation to separate salt and other impurities from saltwater. As the water is heated, it evaporates and leaves behind the unwanted materials. The steam is collected and condensed in a container, while the waste product is ejected. An advantage of distillation is that it uses thermal energy (sunlight) rather than conventional

fossil fuels as its source of power, resulting in a more environmentally friendly solution. The drawback is that it yields less freshwater than does reverse osmosis.

No matter the method of desalination used, an extremely concentrated—and potentially harmful—waste product is always produced. (The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has classified it as industrial waste, thus requiring proper disposal.)

In the case of reverse osmosis, since 50% of the supply water is recovered, it means that the other 50% is now twice as saline as it was originally. If a desalination facility is located along a coastline, it is possible under certain circumstances to return this waste water to the ocean, but only if it does not exceed a safe level of salinity. If the facility is located inland, the challenges of proper waste product disposal increase, as one cannot simply release it into freshwater streams, ponds, lakes, etc.

Similar to many solutions discovered by mankind, desalination produces a *useless* by-product in the process of creating a *useful* product. Will it come to be recognized as a viable solution? Time will tell. □

when excess nutrients stimulate the growth of algae in the water, which in turn rob the lake of oxygen necessary for animal life.

Wastewater treatment is big business today, processing millions of gallons of water while sending tons of the refuse taken from the water to landfills. However, in the third world, 90 to 95% of all domestic sewage and 75% of all industrial waste are discharged into surface waters without any treatment at all.

Here are just a few of the more serious developments:

■ The fertile Nile Delta region has contracted radically due to water diversion and sediment buildup. About 30 species of fish (out of 47) have become extinct or endangered. Delta fisheries that could once feed a million

people have been wiped out.

■ The Rhine River in Europe has lost 8 of its 44 species of fish; another 25 of those are rare or endangered.

■ Colombia's Magdalena River has seen fish production drop from 72,000 metric tons in 1977 to only 23,000 metric tons in 1992.

■ In the United States, California has lost more than 90% of its wetlands, causing about two-thirds of native fish to become extinct or endangered.

There is a saying among water engineers: "The solution to pollution is dilution." While this is intended as a sarcastic comment on the problem, it is based on some truth.

But there is only so much water available for this purpose, as a single gallon of gasoline can contaminate 750,000 gallons of water. It is esti-

mated that, if current trends were to continue, the world's entire river system will be required to transport and dilute pollution by 2050!

War Over Water

In 1995, 31 countries—with combined populations of 458 million people—faced water stress or water scarcity, with most of the stressed areas found in the third world. The next year, 54% of all accessible freshwater from lakes, rivers, streams and underground aquifers were being consumed.

In Africa, where 43% of the land surface is arid, drought was anticipated as a normal part of a cycle every five to six years. However, severe droughts have occurred much more frequently

Please see **WATER**, page 28



Archaeology Validates the Bible!

If the Bible is true, then we should expect archaeology to confirm it. This article reveals exciting discoveries of such confirmations—and why most scholars and news media outlets oppose them.

AS THE BIBLE continues to be validated by new archaeological evidence, one would expect the public to take note with wonder.

Consider the 1983 discovery by Israeli scholar Adam Zertal, who unearthed a huge sacrificial altar on Mount Ebal, north of Jericho. Its construction perfectly matches the specifications described in Deuteronomy 27:4-8, which was later built by Joshua (Josh. 8:30-35).

BY GEORGE C. ROGERS

Yet, as amazing as Dr. Zertal's discovery was, it received a less than enthusiastic response from his academic colleagues. They claimed that he was probably politically motivated, linking his finding to the support of Jewish settlements in the region of Nablus (ancient Shechem), where Mount Ebal is located.

"It's bad for business to find things from the Bible these days," his peers observed. "It makes us look like unsophisticated messian-

ic fanatics" ("Reclaiming Biblical Jerusalem," *aish.com*).

Questioning the validity of the Bible has become fashionable for the academic elite. Weaned on evolutionary theory and molded by years of political correctness, most scholars equate any attempts to validate the Bible as promoting Zionism—a term that advocates of political correctness vigorously reject.

But despite the outcries of Bible skeptics, the restoration of a Jewish homeland in the region of ancient Israel was clearly foretold in Scripture, such as in Zephaniah

2:7 and Zechariah 12:2-8. And the One who orchestrated this prophesied migration, just prior to the Return of the Messiah, was God.

One major school of thought that rejects the existence of ancient Israel is called *biblical minimalism* (as spelled out in the 1996 book *The Invention of Ancient Israel: The Silencing of Palestinian History*, by Keith Whitelam). This movement actually denies the existence of ancient Israel, instead believing the biblical account to be imaginative fiction—an invention that covers up the “real” history of the Palestinians. (Our article “Palestine and the Palestinians” shows the true origin of the term “Palestine,” and gives a brief historical perspective of the peoples of this region.) Biblical minimalism holds that the monarchies of David and Solomon, and their rulership over a militarily and economically powerful Israelite nation, never existed. Rather, biblical minimalists portray these two kings as minor tribal chieftains of Jerusalem, which (they claim) was a small and insignificant village.

The 2001 book *The Bible Unearthed*, by Israel Finkelstein, chairman of archaeology at Tel Aviv University, attempted to discredit the biblical record while promoting radical revisions of ancient Israel. The book ranked high on the *New York Times*’ bestseller list, as Dr. Finkelstein became “the darling of a sympathetic media” (ibid).

As just one of many examples revealing the general leanings of the news media, it may explain why the public-at-large is rarely informed of the archaeological breakthroughs that corroborate the Bible’s authenticity.

A Shocking Discovery

In February 2005, an ongoing archeological project to find the palace of David began to produce an abundance of artifacts and structures, confirming biblical history. This project was spearheaded by Dr. Eilat Mazar, head archaeologist of the Shalem Center Institute of Archaeology, in Israel. She is also the granddaughter of a highly

“The book recounts the excavation of Dr. Shilo’s discovery of a huge wall—which he believed was a retaining wall for David’s palace, or possibly part of the Jebusite fortress David had conquered.”

respected archaeologist, Dr. Benyamin Mazar, former President of Hebrew University. (See inset.)

There have been many attempts over the years to locate the palace of David within the ancient Jebusite stronghold that King David had conquered (II Sam. 5:6-10). This narrow fortified strip, which was later renamed the “City of David,” consisted of only nine acres, and is located just south of the former Temple of Solomon complex. Because evidence of the palace could not be found in there, some archaeologists began to doubt the biblical record.

Meanwhile, in Achziv, on Israel’s northern coast, Eilat Mazar was able to draw upon years of excavation experience. Her book *The Complete Guide to the Temple Mount Excavations* is based upon her experiences gained in the 1970s and 80s under the mentorship of archaeologists such as Yigal Shilo, as well as years of guidance from her grandfather. The book recounts the excavation of Dr. Shilo’s discovery of a huge wall—which he believed was a retaining wall for David’s palace, or possibly part of the Jebusite fortress David had conquered. This find served to heighten Dr. Mazar’s passion to locate the palace structure.

Based upon British archaeologist Kathleen Kenyon’s discoveries of Phoenician stonework in the 1950s and 60s, a solid clue had surfaced as to the location of David’s palace: “Hiram king of Tyre [ancient Phoenicia] sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons [hewers of stones] and they built David a

house” (II Sam. 5:11). This direct link between Dr. Kenyon’s find and the account of David’s house as built by the Phoenicians led Benyamin Mazar to advise his granddaughter to begin her search at the location where the Phoenician stonework was discovered.

Another indicator of the location is found in II Samuel 5:17. It states that when David, upon being anointed king over Israel, heard that the Philistine army was coming after him, he “went down to the hold [stronghold].” This meant that David’s residence was located at a higher elevation than the stronghold called the City of David. Thus, the palace was higher up the hill, just north of the stronghold, but not as far north as what would later become the Temple complex. It became apparent that King David had built his palace outside the walls of the fortified, but cramped, former Jebusite city. His chosen location near the summit of the mountain was on bedrock, with no archaeological layers beneath.

Upon recognizing this discovery in the late winter of 2005, Eilat Mazar found it incredible that the structure was only one to two meters beneath the surface. Skeptics warned that her project was futile due to David’s palace being buried by the many remnants of past cultures. However, she commented, “I was shocked at how easy it was to uncover it, and how well preserved it was, as if it were just waiting 3,000 years for us to find it” (ibid.). She expressed that she, as a Jew and an Israeli, felt great joy when the details of what they found matched the Bible’s descriptions.

She said, “The construction that we found was a complicated and intricate engineering operation that must have required immense resources, and the dating matches.”

It even appears that Dr. Mazar had prepared herself for this discovery by excavating ancient Phoenician ruins on the northern Israeli coast. Her years of experience enabled her to identify the Phoenician construction of David’s palace, which is quite distinct from other ruins in Judea.

As expected, intellectual skeptics refused to acknowledge the significance of Dr. Mazar's phenomenal find. Despite overwhelming archeological proof, many chose to continue embracing false notions of biblical minimalism—maintaining that there was no David, no Solomon, no prophets and no Temple.

Other Unique Discoveries

Among Dr. Mazar's find was a tiny clay disc within the palace ruins. Called a "bulla," the disc is inscribed in ancient Hebrew script with the impressions of the sender's name. It served as a "return address" used to seal papyrus scroll "mail." This bulla bears the name of Jehuchal Ben Shelemiah, who is mentioned in Jeremiah 37:3 as one of two emissaries sent by King Zedekiah

to implore the prophet Jeremiah to pray for Jerusalem, which was under siege by the Babylonians.

Later, in Jeremiah 38:1-4, Jehuchal (or "Jucal") was one of the emissaries who, upon hearing Jeremiah's warning message of the Babylonians' inevitable victory, declared that the prophet should be executed for demoralizing the people.

The fact that this bulla was discovered in David's palace shows that this building continued to be used by the kings of Judah (or at least for governmental purposes) for about 450 years, until Jerusalem's destruction.

Dr. Mazar stressed, "For me, finding the bulla was tremendous. Jehuchal was no longer just some name in a biblical account...He was a real person. We now have his business card.

The account is a real account. It is very rare to find such precise evidence for a narrative in the Bible" (ibid.).

Her late husband, also an archaeologist, had published material on bullas that helped her examine and decipher these intricate sources of valuable information.

In the last decade, more than 50 bullas have been discovered bearing dozens of Hebrew names. This provides even further confirmation of the biblical account. One such name is that of Gemariah Ben Shaphan, a scribe of King Jehoiakim, in whose chamber Baruch Ben Neriah read Jeremiah's warning to Judah (Jer. 36:10). Another name inscribed on a bulla is that of Azariah Ben Hilkiyah, a member of

*Please see **ARCHAEOLOGY**, page 23*

STUDENT EXCAVATIONS

The *PLAIN TRUTH*, predecessor of *The REAL TRUTH* magazine, was once published under the leadership of the late Herbert W. Armstrong. As founder and chancellor of Ambassador College (formerly headquartered at Pasadena, Calif.), Mr. Armstrong had close ties with Dr. Benyamin Mazar, who directed the Temple Mount excavations.

The following are excerpts from *The Autobiography of HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG, Volume 2*:

"In September, 1968, our Dean of Faculties wanted Ambassador College to conduct an archaeological project at a location in Israel. I was personally not interested in such a project. But I consented to visiting Jerusalem to see whether permission could be granted from the government authorities.

"He found Dr. Mazar at the time in charge of the most important 'dig' so far undertaken, starting from the south wall of the Temple Mount. Three major United States universities had sought participation in this outstanding project. All had been rejected. But Professor Mazar offered a fifty-fifty joint participation to Ambassador College!...About mid-October (1968) I did fly to Jerusalem

to look over this project. The 'dig' had been begun a few months before. I met Professor Mazar and inspected the project. [This was also the year and the project in which Eliat Mazar, at about age 11, first experienced excavations.]

"It was much more impressive than I had expected.

"I began to realize the scientific and educational value to Ambassador College. A luncheon was held in a private dining room in the Knesset—the government's capitol building. Present at the luncheon were five high-ranking officials of both the university and the government.

"It was a most memorable luncheon. The favor we were given in their eyes—the warmth of their attitude toward us—was inspiring, astonishing, and most unusual. The Israeli Minister of Tourism and Development, Mr. Moshe Kol, proposed that we build an iron bridge that could never be broken between Ambassador College and Hebrew University...

"I did not make final decision, however, at that time. We agreed to meet again in Jerusalem on December 1, for final decision. Meanwhile, Dr. Mazar, with Dr. Aviram, Dean of the College of Humanities at the univer-

sity, came to Pasadena, and visited also the Texas campus, to look us over. They liked what they saw. And on December 1, at the official residence of Israel's President, Zalman Shazar, we made the joint participation official...So that is the manner in which this vitally important leap forward in the Work was started. We have been given very great favor in the eyes of both government and university chiefs in Jerusalem!"

In 1969, 50 Ambassador College students participated in their first summer excavation projects at the south and west wall of the Temple Mount. The project was highly successful, and the students greatly treasured the experience they gained from such a significant undertaking.

Among a number of their discoveries was a victory column dedicated to Rome's Emperor Vespasian, which had been set up after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Over a seven-year span, hundreds of Ambassador College students were honored to participate in this excavation project. Also, during this time, Mr. Armstrong's relationship with Dr. Benyamin Mazar and other educators and government officials of Israel grew into close, lifelong friendships. □

WHY AMERICA ITS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

BY BRUCE A. RITTER

AMERICA IS A nation of “rights.” In the past 50 years, the United States has had to contend with virtually every rights movement imaginable: civil rights, students’ rights, abortion rights, disabilities rights, gun ownership rights, women’s rights, homosexual rights, victims’ rights.

And now, immigrants’ rights.

It is estimated that 11 to 12 million foreigners live and work in the U.S. illegally, with 500,000 to 1 million aliens migrating to America every year. Largely fleeing from poverty and unemployment in their native countries, many are poorly educated and work menial, low-paying jobs that most native-born Americans will not accept.

Emerging from this underground workforce is a collective voice that is demanding its “rights”—the right to amnesty—the right to pay in-state college tuition rates—the right to citizenship. That voice was heard in the streets of Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, Phoenix, Atlanta, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and other U.S. cities. Teeming masses of activists—numbered in tens and hundreds of thousands—protested against congressional plans to crack down on illegal immigrants.

Opposing Views

Illegal immigration is a controversial issue that is being hotly debated between—and within—the ranks of Republicans and Democrats. Politicians fear it will be a key issue in the November 2006 midterm elections.

Most Republicans seeking re-election must play to their conservative base and call for stronger immigration laws. Yet this will be at the risk of losing Hispanic voters, a key voting bloc for the midterm elections. (In the 2004 presidential election, President George W. Bush received an estimated 40% of Hispanic votes.)

■ **MASSIVE PROTEST:** Immigration rights activists demonstrate in the “Mega-march Dallas: For American Values and Justice” in Dallas, Texas, April 2006.

PHOTO: SMILEY N. POOL/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/KRT

CANNOT SOLVE MIGRATION PROBLEM

The Republicans also realize that enacting tougher immigration reforms could diminish the support of businesses. With fewer workers available to take on low-paying jobs, wages will go up, and profit margins will go down.

The Democrats must also walk a political balancing act. Will they risk aligning themselves with the president, who advocates guest-worker programs and other incentives for illegal aliens—and miss an opportunity to set themselves apart from the current administration?

U.S. congressional lawmakers are divided between two opposing camps, with many liberals and conservatives strangely finding they agree on this issue. Yet even among those who agree, proposals vary as to how to resolve the problem.

On one side of the debate are those who support reforms that benefit “undocumented workers.” Plans range from opposing *any* immigration restric-

tions—to amnesty for illegal aliens (or for employers willing to sponsor them) and for their spouses and children—to temporary guest-worker programs—to allowing additional “temporary workers” and their families into the country—to legalizing the 12 million illegals already living in the U.S.—to giving illegal students amnesty and free college educations.

(Ironically, some activists protest the use of the word “amnesty” because it denotes that a crime has been committed. Others would argue that when one lives and works in a country illegally, a crime *has* been committed—the law *has* been broken.)

Meanwhile, House and Senate lawmakers are also keenly aware of the growing tide of Minutemen groups, private citizens who police America’s southern border and confront illegal workers in cities throughout the nation. These groups advocate tighter controls for the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexican border—especially in light of the lurking,

ever-present threat of Islamic terrorists slipping through.

Speaking to the news media, a Minuteman border watch leader gave the president an ultimatum: Deploy military reserves and the National Guard to the Arizona border by May 25, or else private citizens will break ground to start building a fence.

Some have charged that a wall erected between Mexico and the U.S. would serve as a monument to American racism. Yet many immigrants who have come to the U.S. legally have joined the ranks of citizens who call for tougher immigration measures.

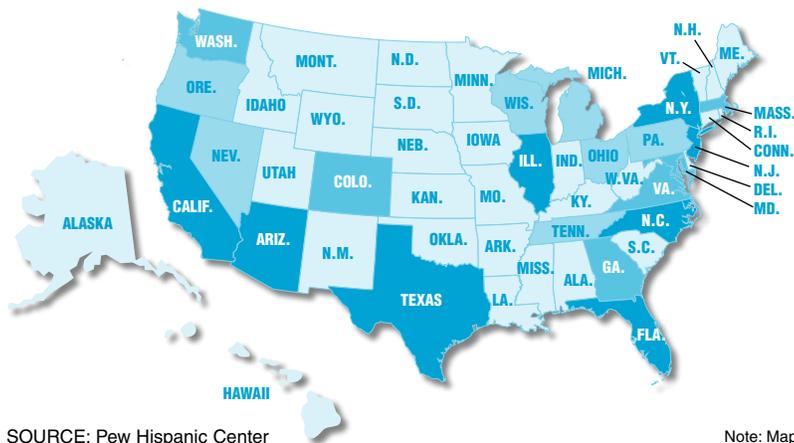
Congressmen who advocate cracking down on illegal immigration offer a wide range of proposals:

- Opposing any guest-worker program
- Increased funding for the U.S. Border Patrol and adding more federal agents
- Enabling local law enforcement to protect citizens from illegal immigration
- Requiring foreign countries to quickly accept their citizens back
- Denying “birthright citizenship” to newborn children of illegals
- Ending welfare benefits for illegal immigrants
- Building a fence along the U.S. border
- Prohibiting in-state education to the children of illegals
- Requiring certain businesses to verify, via a computerized system, an employee’s Social Security number
- Enforcing laws that forbid localities from preventing police from reporting immigration information
- Implementing a national exit-entry tracking system for all aliens (as mandated by the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act)
- Enacting stiffer penalties for alien smugglers
- Cracking down on the construction or financing of tunnels into the U.S.
- Authorizing the use of the armed forces on the border

LIVING IN AMERICA

States where illegal immigrants choose to live, 2002-2004:

85,000 or less 100,000-150,000 200,000-250,000 300,000-2.3 million



■ Preventing driver's licenses issued to illegal immigrants from being used for federal purposes, such as boarding a plane

Much of America fears the prospect of 12 million illegal immigrants instantly receiving U.S. citizenship—including the right to vote.

Politicians are left with making decisions that will ultimately please almost no one, and will *anger* most.

A Look Back

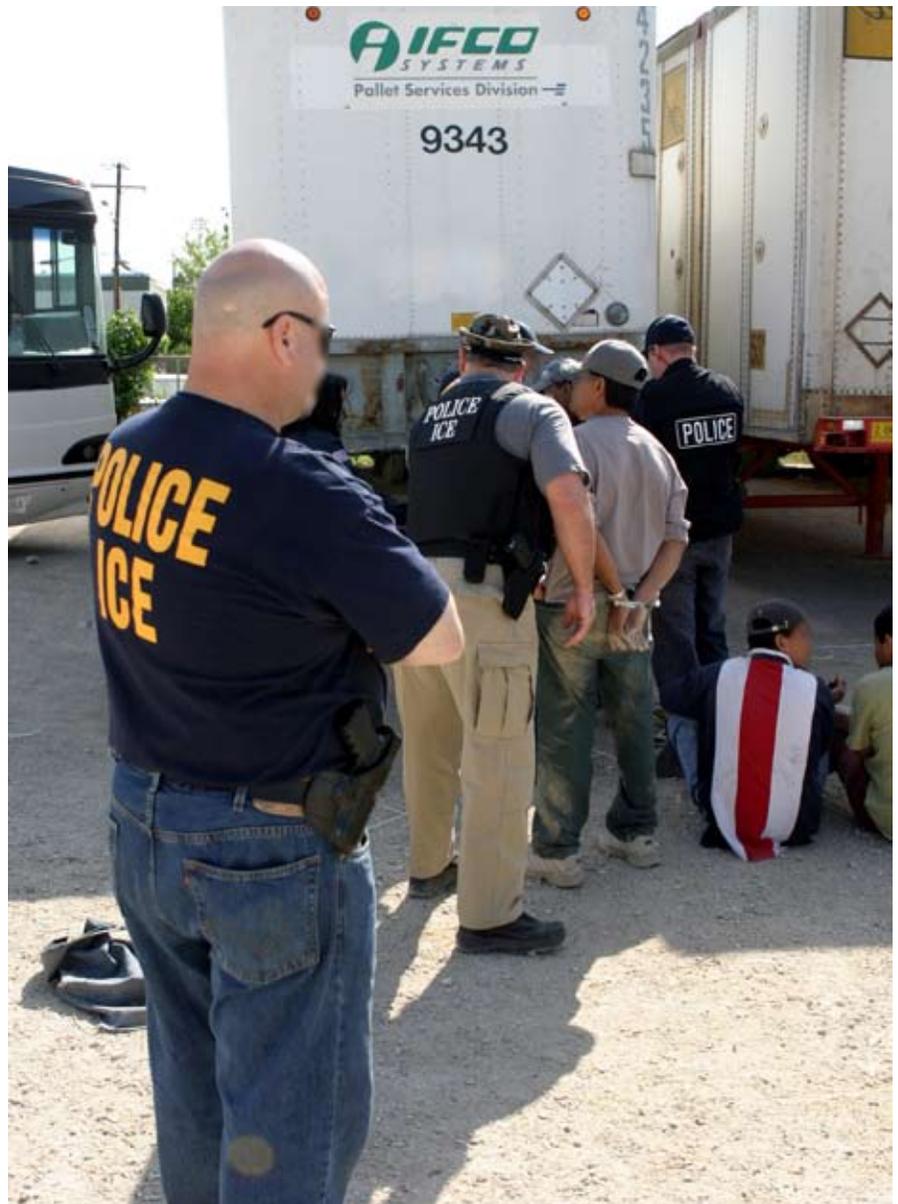
There is a *reason* America is grappling with its ever-growing immigration problem. There is a *reason* commentators, politicians, bureaucrats and think tanks cannot agree on a solution. The country is feeling the EFFECTS of physical symptoms that have spiritual CAUSES.

And the answers to spiritual causes are found in Scripture. Yet sadly, very *few*, including the leading scholars, thinkers and leaders of traditional Christianity, are aware of this.

To get a better understanding of America's immigration headaches, we must first understand that, even since ancient times, nations and kingdoms have had to contend with growing populations of foreigners living among them.

Consider the beginning of the ancient nation of Israel. Even those who possess little biblical knowledge are familiar with the story of Joseph and his brothers, the family of Israel, coming to live in Egypt. At first, they were welcome. But after some years had passed—and as the Israelites began to reproduce faster than the Egyptians did—the rulers of Egypt began to see them as a threat. This fear led to Israel's enslavement.

While most are familiar with the biblical account of God delivering them from slavery, few understand that the Jews consisted of only a *fraction* of the ancient Israelites. Israel was actually comprised of 12 tribes, which eventually divided into two distinct kingdoms: the house of Israel (led by the half-tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh) and the house of Judah (with parts of Levi, Benjamin and Simeon).



■ **FEDERAL CRACKDOWN:** In this handout photo provided by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), almost 1,200 illegal immigrants and seven current or former managers at IFCO Systems North America, a Houston-based company that makes wooden pallets and crates, were arrested April 2006, as part of a national crackdown on illegal immigration.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ICE/KRT

Both houses were taken away into national captivity. The people of Judah (today known as the Jews) returned, and retained their ancient identity to this very day. But the house of Israel “disappeared” into the pages of history, and lost knowledge of their origins; today, their descendants are largely oblivious to their biblical identity.

In delivering Israel out of Egypt and leading them to the Promised Land, God intended to fulfill His promise

to the patriarch Abraham (Gen. 12:3; 18:18; 22:17-18).

But did God pick Israel to be His chosen people, “holy” and “special...above all people that are upon the face of the earth” (Deut. 7:6), because they were inherently superior to everyone else? Notice: “The LORD did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because you were more in number than any people; for you were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because He

THE AMERICAN DREAM—NOW OBSOLETE?

Years ago, immigrants came to this country to begin a new and better life. They believed in the American Dream: the idea that through hard work, courage and determination anyone could achieve prosperity. This and other work-ethic values were passed on to successive generations.

The American Dream did not immediately pan out for most immigrants, but their diligence and willingness to sacrifice for their families became an investment that yielded dividends in following generations. Life became much easier for their sons and daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who (because of their parents) were able to earn college degrees and pursue successful professions—engineering, finance, medicine, law, etc. It was once common for every new generation to aspire to live better than its parents did.

Becoming an American meant learning another language; learning and obeying the laws and customs

of the land; embracing the U.S. over native countries and siding with America in war, including volunteering for military combat. Many believed that fighting for one's country was a sure way to prove that his heart, soul and future were vested in it.

But today, the American Dream has radically changed—and some would argue shattered.

Many immigrants come to the U.S. to find a better life, while others come strictly for employment, sending their wages back home to their families in the native lands.

Foreigners once came to America to *become* Americans, to *be* "Americanized." They instilled this desire in their children as they assimilated into society. Their culture fused into the greater American culture, which became the Great Melting Pot.

And that, many argue, is precisely why so many who come to the U.S. no longer desire to assimilate. They fear losing their national culture and traditions, their identity. And so they cling to their languages and customs,

even to the point of expecting—even insisting—that street signs and driver's tests and government forms be given in their native language. Speaking, reading and writing in English—once considered necessary to fulfilling the American Dream—is now viewed as obsolete, intrusive, even an infringement upon one's "right" to live however he or she may choose.

The United States is a nation that values the rights of the individual. One can freely speak against the policies of the president—even spew verbal attacks on his character—without fear of being arrested, imprisoned, tortured, executed or made to "disappear" without a trace.

Ironically, those same "rights" are being used to tear down, rip apart and demolish confidence in the American system of governance. Respect for law, order and authority is at an all-time low. A cultural war of opposing ideologies is being waged, polarizing government and dividing the nation.

How long can America survive? □

would keep the oath which He had sworn unto your fathers, has the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt" (vs. 7-8).

God is not a "respector of persons" (Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11). He rescued the Israelites from their meager existence and gave them His commandments, statutes and judgments so they would become a model nation: "Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do so in the land where you go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; *for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations*, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who has God so near unto

them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon Him for? And what nation is there so great, that has statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?" (Deut. 4:5-8).

If ancient Israel had faithfully obeyed God, diligently turning to Him as their Ruler and Lawgiver, they would have reaped the wonderful bless-

ings of national peace and prosperity. Also, their shining example would have led the surrounding nations—and ultimately *all* nations (Gen. 18:18)—to learn God's laws, and reap the subsequent blessings of practicing His way of life.

Among these laws were statutes and precepts that governed the welfare and conduct of foreigners who were allowed to live among the Israelites (Ex. 12:37-38). God declares that He loves the "stranger" (Deut. 10:17-18) and expected Israel to do the same: "And if a stranger [foreigner] sojourn with you in your land, you shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwells with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God" (Lev. 19:33-34).

"Strangers" (or foreigners) were protected from



■ **FALSE IDENTITIES:** Fake Social Security cards, which were seized by authorities, lay in a pile at the office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Charlotte, North Carolina.

PHOTO: PATRICK SCHNEIDER/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

oppression: “You shall neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Ex. 22:21), and “Also you shall not oppress a stranger: for you know the heart of a stranger, seeing you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (23:9).

They were to receive the same standard of judgment and fairness that was rendered to the Israelites (Lev. 24:19-22; 19:34-35; Deut. 24:17-18; 27:19).

But to live among the Israelites, immigrants had to keep the same commandments, statutes and judgments that God’s people were commanded to keep. This included observing God’s weekly Sabbath (Ex. 20:8-10; 23:12) and annual Holy Days (12:18-19; Lev. 16:29-31). They were required to participate in God-sanctioned executions (24:16) and abstain from pagan sexual practices described in Leviticus 18: “You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourns among you: (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled)” (Lev. 18:26-27).

God divided the Promised Land among the clans and families of the 12 tribes. These properties—which were vital to the Israelites’ livelihood—were to be inherited from generation to generation. They were not allowed to be sold to non-Israelites.

But God did not forget those who were without property or who suffered hardship. He established a financial assistance program to provide for the Levites (who did not receive a land inheritance), the fatherless, widows and for “the stranger” (Deut. 26:12). However, the poor were expected to do their part; for example, while God instructed His people to leave some crops behind for the underprivileged when harvesting, the poor had to glean the food. This required work!

Yes, Israel’s Deliverer looked out for the immigrants among His people. However, He also set a differ-

ence between the “stranger” and the Israelite. There were certain things that only His people were allowed to do. For example, foreigners were forbidden to eat the Passover meal (Ex. 12:43-47)—that is, unless they became full citizens (vs. 48-49).

Modern Problem, Ancient Roots

While God instructed His people to treat the foreigners among them with fairness, He also expected Israel to lead the way—*His Way*—in how to live, rather than allowing “strangers” to dictate the course of the nation.

But ancient Israel rejected God and His Law. As they continually rebelled against their Deliverer and rejected His guiding hand, the kingdom gradually fell into a downward spiral toward national depravity. Despite multiple warnings from His faithful servants, God had to remove His blessings, replacing them with severe droughts, famines, diseases, humiliating military defeats and other national curses. Also among these was the fulfillment of God’s warning: “The stranger that is within you shall get up above you very high; and you shall come down very low. He shall lend to you, and you shall not lend to him: he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail” (Deut. 28:43-44).

Verse 45 explains that “all these curses shall come upon you, and shall pursue you, and overtake you, till you be destroyed; *because you listened not unto the voice of the LORD your God*, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.”

Israel was ultimately sent back into slavery, and the national birthright promise to Abraham’s seed had to be fulfilled at another time. God did this through the greatest “nation and a company of nations” (Gen. 35:10-12) in man’s history—the United States of



SUGGESTED READING:

Our extensive book thoroughly explains the biblical identity of the American and British peoples in prophecy, revealing knowledge not taught in the world’s churches or halls of higher learning.

America (Manasseh) and the former British Empire (Ephraim).

But like their ancestors before them, Israel’s modern-day descendants have rejected their Lawgiver. They have thrown out His laws—which were to be their “wisdom” and “understanding in the sight of the nations” (Deut. 4:6)—in order to live by *their own* laws, *their own* rules of conduct.

Look at the result. Without God’s laws as the standard of wisdom and rendering good judgment, men cannot agree on right and wrong. They are forced to pass *new* laws—*new* codes—*new* regulations—year after year, as society’s values change with each successive generation.

This is reflected in America’s struggle to find a solution to aliens living and working in the country illegally. The American people cannot even agree on whether to call them “illegal immigrants” or “undocumented workers”!

Consider the irony. Millions of Americans, even most who claim to be Christian, consider the Law of God burdensome and that it restricts individual freedoms. Yet God’s Law, contained in the pages of the Bible, can be held in one hand—while men produce vast libraries of laws, codes, rulings and regulations that attempt to address virtually every miniscule detail of life!

And what has this yielded? Mass bureaucracy—inconsistent and unjust court renderings—abuses in interpreting the law—legal chaos and confusion! *This* is freedom?

The U.S. already has laws in place that address the rise of illegal immigration—yet the people lack the will to enforce them. Lawmakers are at a crossroads: If they do nothing, the problem will not go away; it will only grow worse. On the other hand, no matter what proposals are passed and enforced, a large segment of the voting populace will be upset—and they will show their anger in the ballot box.

Without the Law of God as their guiding light (Prov. 6:23), the people of modern Manasseh are entering dark times ahead. □



T H E

PAMPERED GENERATION

We live in an age when increasingly less is expected of children, yet ever more is expected by them. This has created unintended but easily foreseen results.

BY JAMES F. TURCK

THE FORMATIVE childhood years of the coming generation are vastly different than their predecessors. In an increasingly industrialized, technologically advancing democratic world, childhood has become solely fun and pleasure. Most everything in their world seems to revolve around them.

One would think that this would produce children that are happy, upbeat and joyful. It has not.

Instead, youth today are unhappy, joyless, sullen, depressed, bratty and often demanding. Each year finds more children and adolescents being diagnosed with new disorders requiring medication aimed at controlling what

is in reality bad behavior. Shocking reports have come out about the side effects of antipsychotic drugs—a concept that challenges the very underpinnings of any society forced to use them on a wide scale.

This was not the case as little as a relative few years ago. Indeed, it has only been in recent years this phenomenon has occurred.

Why? What has caused this great shift of mindset in this recent generation?

The Childhood of Yesteryear

The thinking of 18th and 19th centuries could find no place in today's society. It was a time when "children were to be seen and not heard." How extreme this must seem to be in the minds of many today. While this age had its flaws, children were generally happy. Clearly defined boundaries of acceptable behavior were taught and enforced. There was no doubt left as to who was in charge of the family. It was expected—demanded—that honor and respect be shown toward parents and other adults. The "first commandment with promise" (Eph. 6:2; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16) was ingrained into young minds. When an adult entered a room, neatly dressed,

well-behaved children rose to their feet in respect. They would warmly greet visitors with “Good day, Mr. Smith” or “How do you do, Mrs. Jones.”

When dad came home from work or in from the field, a chorus of young voices would welcome him with “Hello, father!” or “Daddy’s home!” The same honor was extended to their mother. It was expected that their focus should be on others, not themselves.

Little girls spent their days with mom, learning how to take care of the home and often lending a hand in caring for siblings. They were taught responsibilities such as cleaning, doing laundry, cooking and baking—all of the things to keep a home running smoothly and efficiently. They were expected to be mommy’s little helpers, contributing their fair share to the daily duties.

Little boys were also given household tasks, but of a more strenuous nature. Yard work needed to be done; firewood chopped and split or coal shoveled for the furnace; a family garden attended to, with planting, weeding and watering. They, too, had to fulfill their part in the family as daddy’s busy little helping hands, taking care of tasks while he was at work providing for his family’s financial needs.

This was even more so if the father’s job was the family farm. On top of everyday chores, there were animals to care for, fields to plow and sow, crops to raise and harvest, fences to erect and tend to. The family’s livelihood and well-being depended on group effort, with each member contributing for the good of the whole.

It was sometimes boring, tedious work, yet it had to—and did—get done. Children learned to keep at a task no matter how difficult, and to see the job through to its completion. The children’s obligation and allegiance was to their parents and family. They learned and practiced it. This then extended later in life toward their nation, spouse, employer and ultimately to their progeny. They learned to have an outgoing, out-flowing care and concern for others, extending past their own selfish wants. Parents employed the proverb, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and

when he is old, he will not depart from it” (22:6). They had a clear grasp, a sound-minded approach, to loving and rearing children. A child’s “right” was to be a respectful, hard-working cog in the family machine, bringing honor to father, mother, brother and sister alike. The world *did not* revolve around them.

Yet life was not all work and no play. The simple things in life—a swim in the nearby pond or stream; a tree swing; a straw fort built in the barn; a game of marbles, tag or hide-and-seek; playing with a Raggedy Anne doll or a hand-built toy—brought countless hours of fun and enjoyment. Reading a good book could transport one to a faraway land to experience endless adventures. Only one’s imagination limited the fun that could be had in a slower-paced, comparatively carefree existence.

Boredom was never allowed to ruin the day. Still, young people growing up during this period could enjoy the quietness of a warm summer evening gliding back and forth in a porch swing; or, on a warm spring day, lying in the greening grass staring up into the sky, looking for the shapes of animals in the clouds floating by.

Remembering When...

Generally, this wholesome pattern of childhood continued through the early and mid-1900s. Indeed, growing up in a large family from the 1950s, 60s and into the 70s on a 186-acre dairy farm in the American Midwest, my childhood was a mixture of hard physical work and countless hours of fun. All my brothers and sisters lent a hand with the daily chores and work that came with each season. Our parents taught us to respect and honor them and others, to give of ourselves, and to value hard work and completing the task at hand.

Summer vacations from school were spent harvesting winter wheat, oats, baling straw and cutting hay. During the school year, upon entering my parents’ home after the school day was done, my mother’s voice would often ring out, “Your father needs you out in the field—change your clothes and go help him.”

My brothers heard the same, and my sisters were kept equally busy. Sometimes we were sent into a freshly plowed field to pick rocks—a chore that has a definite beginning, but no end!

But it was a happy, joyful, fun-filled life. How could it be otherwise, growing up with the largest yard and playground in the neighborhood? There were so many fun things to keep us occupied: a creek teeming with life, the barn where forts could be built, a sand pile to play in, and a four-tree tree house our father built. Boredom never found a place in our house. Life had purpose and meaning!

How times have changed! And so has the childhood experienced by today’s youth. Why?

The Present Childhood Reality

As time has marched on, so have the technological advancements of the Western democratic societies. In the last 25 to 50 years, there have been welcome advances in time- and labor-saving devices.

But there has also been an explosion in what could simply be described as “toys,” electronic gadgets of all kinds. There are now an incredible number of “things” to want and that seemingly everyone “must” have—ever acquiring more, but never content with what they already possess. The simple things that satisfied people in ages past no longer do.

As the industries that make these modern inventions grew, so has the need for laborers in the factories that produce them. This has had numerous effects. Most people have left behind the agricultural way of life for the 40-hour work week. Now, fewer boys are growing up working alongside their fathers performing the day-to-day tasks that teach a strong work ethic. Ever-increasing numbers of wives and mothers have entered the workforce. This has changed the family dynamic. Mom is no longer home to teach her daughters how to manage a household. What was once taught is now neglected. Daily chores are a thing of the past.

Please see PAMPERED, page 23

I S R A E L ' S



The Answer for True Peace?

BUILDING A WALL, DIVIDING A LAND—THIS MIGHT BRING SECURITY, BUT WILL IT DELIVER LASTING PEACE?

“ISRAEL CHOOSES partition”—“Making Peace with Barbed Wire”—“Choosing Peace over Divorce.” These were front page headlines the day after Israel’s March 2006 parliamentary election.

The winner was Kadima, a centrist party. However, it will have to form a coalition government since it did not win an overwhelming majority.

Nevertheless, the election results show that Kadima was given a mandate to unilaterally withdraw from the West Bank, with plans to establish Israel’s permanent borders by 2008. This gave credibility to the plan already in place: to surround the West Bank with a security fence, which is well on its way to completion.

The purpose of the fence, or wall, is to ensure Israel’s security from terrorism from the West Bank. It has already slowed the movement of suicide bombers; but will such a barrier force the Palestinians to pursue peace?

BY RYAN P. DENEÉ

Kadima’s Mandate

The Kadima Party’s victory was a compromise between two great schools of thought that have driven Israel over the past 30 years. The Israeli left (liberals) held a utopian vision of a negotiated peace deal with the Palestinians, hoping it would herald a new Middle East. This vision strove to do with the Jews and Palestinians what Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg did after World War II—a peaceful economic integration. In contrast, the right (conservatives) envisioned building an Israeli nation based upon the biblical boundaries of ancient Israel.

Neither idea has worked: The hopeful dream of peace was shattered by the second intifada; and the ongoing cost of occupying the territories has lowered Zionist zeal for a greater Israel covering all biblical lands.

The Israelis separating from the Palestinians has defaulted as the only option. Though not the preferred choice of the Israelis, it is the only option they see as viable to keep their own security.

Walls of the Past and Present

No matter the reasoning behind it, a security fence—a 6-meter-high concrete barrier dividing towns, cities and lands—immediately brings to mind similar walls of recent history.

For example, the Berlin Wall, which surrounded the Allied portion of West Berlin, Germany, was built to divide a common people split by the winning powers of World War II. Communist Eastern Germany built it to keep its populace from fleeing to the West. The wall came to symbolize the frontline of the Cold War between East and West, between communism and the free world.

Just as Berlin symbolized the frontline between the free world and communism, will Israel’s wall become a symbol of the division between the Christian-Jewish West and the Islamic East?

Effects of the Wall

The effects of the wall are already being seen. It has reduced vandalism and attacks on nearby kibbutz fields and buildings. In areas protected by the wall, attacks by suicide bombers



■ **ONGOING SUICIDE ATTACKS:** A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up outside a fast-food restaurant in Tel Aviv during the Passover holiday, April 2006, killing nine other people and wounding dozens in the deadliest Palestinian attack in more than a year.

PHOTO: NOAM WIND/FLASH 90/KRT

have been reduced to nearly zero. This is leading some to believe that a clear division is the best way to begin anew.

But militants have already found ways to get around the wall. On the morning of the elections, Palestinian militants fired a longer-range Russian-made *Katyusha* rocket from Gaza into Israel. *Katyushas* can reach larger Israeli towns near Gaza and are far more deadly than the homemade *Qassam* rockets used in the past.

Before the security fence was erected, many cooperative business relationships were being built between the Israelis and Palestinians. Israeli businesses were initially attracted by the lower wages, but the fence has increased the “cost of doing business.” For some, it has become easier to do business with companies in Jordan than with businesses a few miles away

“We are tired of fighting, we are tired of being courageous, we are tired of winning, we are tired of defeating our enemies, we want to be able to live in an entirely different environment of relations with our enemies.”

— Ehud Olmert, in a June 2005 address to the Israel Policy Forum in New York

on the other side of the barrier.

When the border was open, the Palestinians could freely enter Israel to find work. Now, it has become much harder to cross the border, and many have lost their jobs or have begun moving to other towns in search of work. Since they cannot rely on workers to cross the border each day,

employers look for others to fill the jobs that need to be done. For instance, in the border town of Kalkilya (population 40,000), close to 15,000 residents commuted to Israel each day. But with the fence in place, 6,000 have moved away, and 640 shops have closed. This, according to some, has resulted in a kind of apartheid system in the Palestinian territories.

Imagine having to cross a wall each day to travel to school, as some Palestinian children must do. If they

do not arrive at the gate during the time it is open, they risk missing school or not making it home at night. They are determined to go to school every day, fearing that Israel will shut the gate completely.

All Walls Eventually Fall

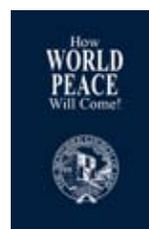
The building of the wall has yet to enter the areas around Jerusalem. Many wonder what will be the city’s fate. Kadima revealed days before the election that it would divide Jerusalem and allow a Palestinian state to be established in parts of Israel’s “eternal capital.”

During an official debate, former Yesha Council chairman Otniel Schneller stated that Israel will keep sites important to the Jews under their control, and give other areas to the Palestinians for their capital.

Will the Jews accept having their “eternal capital” divided once again? Will the Palestinians accept being secluded to Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem? The city—whose name means “City of Peace”—will be divided, and neither side will be happy.

The wall will divide and separate two peoples, only increasing the animosity between them. It will not bring peace, but only short term protection. The wall will only serve as a huge band-aid, treating the *effect* of a problem and not the *cause*. Over the course of history, this is how mankind has attempted to solve its problems.

True peace—which cannot be brought by barriers—will come to the entire world, but not in the way most think. □



SUGGESTED READING: All nations long for peace. Leaders negotiate for it. Armies fight for it. Many pray for it. Yet it remains more elusive than ever. But the Bible says that it will come—and soon. Here’s how!

PAMPERED

Continued from page 20

Much whining and crying comes from the mouths of adolescents at even the suggestion that they should clean their rooms or take out the trash—tasks that take but moments to perform. Ask any employer how difficult it is to find young people who will work at almost any job—especially those considered mundane and boring! The mere suggestion of spending the day picking rocks out of a field would bring howls of protest. These are the types of jobs now left to millions of hardworking illegal immigrants.

Many parents are driven by the thinking that their children's lives must be better than was their own. It is natural to want your children to be happy and comfortable. Feeling guilty at not spending enough time with them has compelled many a father or mother to try to compensate in other ways. Gradually, the focus has changed from parents

teaching children to help the family—to pull their weight and do their share—to the opposite. Now, everything is done for them—the world revolves around them. Instead of selfless, outgoing concern, there is a selfish inward attitude. The purpose and meaning of their life is to party and “have a good time.”

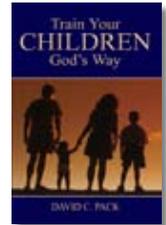
No longer are children obligated to their parents. Parents are now obligated to their children—obligated to do everything for them and take them where they want to go—baseball games, football, soccer, dance and gymnastic practice. Obligated to clean and pick up after them. Obligated to provide the very latest gadgets, be it a CD or DVD player or the latest cell phone—lest they be unhappy, depressed or bored beyond belief! They must always be plugged in so that they are not left alone with their own thoughts.

As if competing in a popularity contest, parents are afraid *not* to cater to their offspring's whims, lest they lose their love. They will certainly not apply discipline, for fear of terribly destroying

their little one's “self-esteem”! Truly, this scripture has come to pass: “Children are their oppressors...they which lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your [former] paths” (Isa. 3:12).

All of this has produced an entire generation of weak, selfish, pampered children. Though they have all they could ask for, the joy and better life that their parents want for them is not there. Countless millions of young minds, after being diagnosed with every conceivable disorder, are being “medicated” in an attempt to fix depressed, unhappy and unfulfilled lives.

This need not be the case with your children. If you are a parent who desires to rear joyful, wholesome children who understand the real meaning and purpose to life, then there are tried and true—time-honored—childrearing principles available. Scriptural, they are contained in our book *Train Your CHILDREN God's Way*. □



ARCHAEOLOGY

Continued from page 13

the family of high priests; he officiated before Jerusalem's destruction (I Chron. 9:11).

Though Dr. Mazar was exhilarated by these discoveries, she did not bask in personal glory or fame. Her excitement solely focused on the fact that archeology validated God's Word as historically accurate. (Her late grandfather published a five-volume work showing hundreds of connections between such finds and the Bible.)

Other Bible Opponents

As fast as artifacts are being unearthed, Dr. Mazar and other archaeologists are deeply concerned about the mass destruction and removal of valuable artifacts.

“According to agreements made between the Israeli government and the Waqf, to whom the Israelis handed control of the Temple mount in 1967, the Arabs are not permitted to carry

out independent works on the Mount without permission from the Israel Antiquities Authority. Over the years, however, there have been indications of the Waqf breaking this status quo... The greatest breach was discovered in 1999, when the Waqf bulldozed and then paved over close to 6,000 square meters of the ancient Temple Mount surface. Temple Mount artifacts were ripped from the Mount and secretly dumped in several places throughout Jerusalem, mostly in the Kidron Valley east of the Old City and also in the city dump. Over 100 truckloads of Temple Mount rubble, soil and artifacts were clandestinely removed” (“Reclaiming Biblical Jerusalem”).

Dr. Mazar was critical of the “Israel Antiquities Authority, which by law is responsible for any archaeological activity on the Mount; The Authority didn't pursue the matter, largely because the second intifada broke out and it had little stomach for enflaming Muslim sensitivities” (“Eilat Mazar: Uncovering

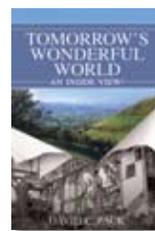
King David's Palace,” *momentmag.com*).

Such are the dilemmas of a turbulent world riddled with unpredictable outbreaks of conflict and chaos.

This same Bible—which Dr. Mazar and others continue to validate through their findings—makes some startling prophetic forecasts. It reveals that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) will soon return, and that Satan, the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4)—who “deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9)—will be dethroned.

At last, humanity will enjoy the benefits of worldwide peace, abundance and true fulfillment that will be brought by the rule of Christ and His resurrected saints. God's Word also reveals that King David will once again reign over the 12 tribes of Israel (Jer. 30:9; Ezek 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Hos. 3:5).

You can catch a glimpse of that coming time of universal peace by reading our book *TOMORROW'S WONDERFUL WORLD – An Inside View!* □



WORLD NEWS DESK

AN EDITORIAL ANALYSIS OF WORLD NEWS, TRENDS AND CONDITIONS

GEOPOLITICS, STRATEGIES & ECONOMIES

SUDAN: FOOD RATIONS CUT IN HALF

Due to a severe shortage of funds, the United Nations is cutting in half the minimum daily requirement of food rations in the Darfur region, affecting up to 3.5 million people. This comes as Darfur's malnutrition rates are back on the rise.

Cuts include reducing cereals, blended fortified food and oil by 50% and pulses, sugar and salt by 75%.

The World Food Programme states that this drastic cut will cause food stocks to last longer during the "hunger season"—from July to September, when needs are greatest before the next harvest.

More than 6.1 million people across Sudan require food aid—more than any other country in the world.

Source: *BBC News; World Food Programme*

BIN LADEN: THE WEST IS WAGING WAR AGAINST ISLAM

In an April 2006 audiotape, Osama bin Laden denounced the "Zionist-crusaders war on Islam," also implying that killing American civilians was justified.

His message largely focused on three issues:

- The West financially isolating the newly-elected Hamas-led Palestinian Authority government

- Calling on Muslims to fight against peacekeeping forces in Sudan's Darfur region

- Outrage over Danish cartoons mocking Muhammad

U.S. intelligence officials and terrorism experts have concluded the message is credible.

Source: *The New York Times*

CHINA'S ECONOMY

The incredible growth of the Chinese economy continued in the first quarter of 2006, estimated to be 10.2%. This dispels expectations that the giant was on the verge of slowing.

With China's GDP expanding by 10% a year between 2003 and 2005, it has quickly surpassed the economies of Italy, France and now, with that pace continuing, Britain. Only the American, Japanese, and German economies remain larger.

The news came days before Chinese President Hu Jintao visited the U.S., where trade and exchange rates were already bound to be the top and most contentious issues.



■ **WHITE HOUSE VISIT:** President George W. Bush and Chinese President Hu Jintao took part in state arrival ceremonies (April 2006).

PHOTO: CHUCK KENNEDY/KRT

Some U.S. lawmakers and economists believe the yuan is overvalued by as much as 40%, essentially handing China a tremendous trade advantage that is quickly eliminating American manufacturing jobs.

Source: *The Times* (London)

RUSSIAN ARMS EXPORTS

Russia exported a record \$6 billion of weapons in 2005, defying predictions of a slow-down, and exceeding Moscow's target by 25%.

The number of countries procuring arms from Russia also increased to 61.

Another report indicated that President Putin himself had become Russia's most effective arms salesman. For example, industry analysts said Mr. Putin overcame reservations and won contracts from countries such as Algeria (\$7.5 billion for aircraft and tanks), Iran (\$4 billion over the next few years), Morocco, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

"Putin is a man willing to roll up his sleeves and close a deal," a Russian industry source said. "There's never been anyone as forceful as him on the issue of arms exports. More than any of his predecessors, Putin knows how to translate political and economic influence into arms sales. He has made arms sales a major element in bilateral relations, particularly with the Middle East."

Some expect Turkey (a NATO member and long-time U.S. ally) to be Mr. Putin's next target.

Source: *The World Tribune*

HEALTH, SCIENCE & SOCIETY

SCIENTISTS FIND "MISSING LINK"?

Scientists believe they may have found a missing link in their effort to prove the theory of evolution, upon discovering several fossils of a "new species" in the Canadian arctic that appears to be somewhat like a crocodile.

The evolutionists admit that there was a gap in their theory, in terms of their fossil records to date, of fish evolving into land animals, and believe that this new species, *Tiktaalik roseae*,

may be the missing link. It has fins and scales, but also a flat crocodile-like head with eyes positioned on top and the beginnings of a neck—characteristics not seen in fish.

"When we look inside the fin, we see a shoulder, we see an elbow, and we see an early version of a wrist, which is very similar to that of all animals that also walk on land," said Professor Shubin, a paleontologist from the University of Chicago.

Interestingly, in their desperation to prove their theory, and to disprove the reality of a powerful Almighty and Creator, Professor Shubin reveals himself somewhat by saying, "We are capturing a very significant transition at a key moment of time. What is significant about the animal is that it is a fossil that blurs the distinction between two forms of life—between an animal that lives in water and an animal that lives on land."

Source: *BBC News*

SOCIETY & LIFESTYLES



■ **CATERING TO THE MASSES:** The movie *Silent Hill* is just one of many films marketed toward the tastes of horror fans.

PHOTO: FILM STUDIO HANDOUT/KRT

U.S. MOVIE AUDIENCES WANT MORE BLOOD

The film industry continues to contribute to America's socially and morally degenerate condition. The latest trend: the more blood, the better.

In response to *Hostel*, a sex/horror film debuting atop the box office in January and making nearly \$50 million, Tim Palen, co-president of marketing for Lions Gate Films, stated, "We're now a big believer in blood."

Since the fall of 2005, seven horror movies have topped the box office.

Technology has made a big difference: "Filmmakers now have the ability to put viewers directly into the shoes of the victims going through these horrible things, in an almost documentary way," said one industry insider.

However, critics within the film trade

are even concerned, with *New York Magazine* referring to the new genre as "torture porn."

Picturehouse Films president Bob Berney, who marketed *The Passion of the Christ*, said, "It's not the violence that bothers me so much as the tone. A George Romero movie was so political and funny and subversive. To me, these newer movies are purely sadistic."

An editor for the horror film magazine *Fangoria* said, "In 1990, I had to pull my hair out just to find a movie to put on the cover. There were only three or four major horror releases a year. Now there's three or four a month. We're like pigs in slop."

Source: *Newsweek*

LEGAL SHOWDOWN: ABORTION IN THE U.S.

The abortion issue in the U.S., on cue from President Bush and on the heels of his recent appointees to the Supreme Court, continues to approach a political and social showdown across the country.

Many analysts point to South Dakota's declaration in February 2006 of a new law banning abortion as the beginning of the war. Ultimately, the legal battles in individual states are expected to lead to a Supreme Court case reconsidering and possibly overturning the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision.

According to *USA Today* analysis of data from the Alan Guttmacher Institute and the U.S. Census Bureau, 22 states representing 49% of the U.S. population, or 145 million people, are likely to significantly restrict abortion access should the Supreme Court overturn their 1973 decision.

This group includes nearly every state in the south and a swath of big states across the industrial Rust Belt, from Pennsylvania to Ohio and Michigan.

Sixteen states representing 35% or 102 million people are likely to protect access, and 12 states representing 16% or 46 million, are "in the middle."

The overall state-by-state picture is not unlike recent Presidential elections in terms of Republican vs. Democratic "victories."

From all accounts, the "war" is expected to be long and dirty.

Source: *USA Today*

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons” (Gen. 3:1-7).

In this historic account, Satan lied to Eve, who led Adam into sin with her. The devil’s deceit captured these two adult children into the belief that they no longer needed to listen to God—their Parent. Being thrust from the garden, they were forced to fend for themselves. They rejected God’s perfect law and rule—His GOVERNMENT over all creation—as guides in their lives and were made captive to Satan and his way of sin. Because of sin, they no longer had access to God’s blessings, guidance, protection or the gift of His Holy Spirit, which would have come by eating of the Tree of Life.

7,000-Year Plan

Cut off from God by sin (Isa. 59:1-2), mankind has believed the lies of the god of this world for 6,000 years. The core of God’s plan encompasses 7,000 years. Few have understood this. Many *have* correctly understood at least some of the verses describing Christ’s coming 1,000-year Reign, to begin at His Return (Rev. 20:4-6). But they know *nothing* of God allotting 6,000 years, or six millennial days of a “seven-day week,” to man’s rule, under Satan, prior to the seventh 1,000-year “day.” We are near the end of the “sixth day.”

We must understand! The Bible says, “But, beloved, *be not ignorant* of this one thing, that *one day* is with the Lord *as a thousand years*, and a thousand years as one day” (II Pet. 3:8; Psa. 90:4). Of course, most *are* “ignorant” of almost everything that the Bible teaches. Will you comprehend?

Man (under the invisible sway of Satan) has been given six days, or 6,000 years, to try his own ways, governments, religions, philosophies, value systems and forms of education. Under the influence of Satan, he has practiced sin and disobedience to God’s commands for nearly 6,000 years. He has then tried to treat all of the ill *effects*

instead of the *cause*, which is breaking God’s commandments. God is allowing man to learn painful, bitter lessons. The masses, who have never known the precious truth of God, must learn that their own ways do not work!

How it All Started

John wrote, “In the beginning was the Word” (John 1:1) and then continued, “the Word was *with* God, and the Word *was* God.” If there is One who WAS God, but who was also WITH God, it is obvious that two Beings—two Persons—are described.

Verse 14 continues, “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” The only God-Being who ever became flesh in order to dwell among men is Jesus Christ. Remember, it says that the Word “was made flesh.” Christ was not flesh until He came to earth to become the Savior of mankind—to pay the RANSOM, His life, and eventually DELIVER mankind from captivity.

Genesis 1:1 states, “In the beginning God...” Moses recorded the first five books of the Old Testament in the Hebrew language. The Hebrew word translated “God” is *Elohim*, a uniplural word like *team*, *group*, *family* or *church*. God is one Family—one God—composed of TWO Beings. This is why Christ could *be* God and *be with* God at the same time. John 4:24 states that “God is a Spirit.” God is made up of, or composed of, Spirit. Men are composed of flesh.

God and Christ enjoy perfect harmony and agreement in everything they do. They reflect perfect outgoing concern, love and cooperation. The Father is the supreme leader of a Family that both chose to expand. First, God created the angels and then the entire physical universe, including earth.

Then, later in Genesis 1, we find that God said, “Let US [more than one] make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness” (vs. 26). There was clearly more than one person involved in the creation of man. Verse 25 shows that each animal was made after “his kind.”

Dogs come from dogs and have puppies that look like dogs. Cats come from cats and have kittens that look like

cats. Horses come from horses and have foals that look like horses. This is true throughout the entire animal kingdom. This is no mystery.

But here is what HAS been a MYSTERY. Men are not part of the animal kind. They do not carry the likeness of any “beast of the earth” (vs. 25). They are made in the image and likeness of *God*. They are part of the GOD kind. So says your Bible!

Genesis 2:7 states, “God *formed* man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man *became* a living soul.” Man is made out of physical matter—flesh. While he is not composed of what God is composed of—Spirit—man is FORMED in the “image and likeness” of God. Also take note that this verse says man “became”—not “had”—a soul. People do not HAVE souls. They ARE souls!

Throughout the Bible are references to God’s body parts. They show that God has eyes, ears, hands, feet, a mouth, nostrils, arms and legs, etc. In just one location, Isaiah 59:1-2 mentions His face, ears and hands. Numerous verses make reference to the *mind* of God and Christ (Phil. 2:5). Humans have all of these same physical attributes that God Himself possesses, although made of flesh and not Spirit.

Human beings have been given hands so that they can create. Paws, claws and hooves are not capable of building complex televisions, even *if* a mind is directing them—and, of course, animals have *brains*, not *minds*.

Animals function on instinct. Almost immediately after birth, they know exactly how to function—how to stand up, take steps and find where to get milk. Babies require far longer to even stand up and have to be *taught* how to do everything.

Human beings are capable of acquiring knowledge. Animals do not have this capability. God has programmed into animals, through instinct, everything that they need to function effectively within their environment.

Human beings do not instinctively know everything that they need to know in order to operate successfully

throughout their lives. As they grow older and more demands are made upon them, they must acquire ever more knowledge.

All knowledge that men obtain falls into two categories. First is the knowledge of how to work with matter and physical things. Second is the kind of knowledge necessary to develop a personal relationship with both God and their fellow man. All knowledge, therefore, is either PHYSICAL or SPIRITUAL knowledge.

Physical knowledge is acquired through the five senses—*sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste*. People understand that they must acquire a certain amount of useful knowledge and keep adding to it throughout their lives. They recognize that they must *learn* to eat, *learn* to ride a bike, *learn* to play a piano, hammer a nail, cut the grass, get dressed, drive a car, master one or more skills en route to a career, and many other things. To function as adults requires much physical knowledge. Of course, this is not hard to understand. Most adults recognize that no one can succeed in life without a certain amount of knowledge. Today, people need more knowledge than ever to survive in an ever more complex world.

But there is a big problem in all of this. The physical knowledge that we have described has not been sufficient, or of the right *kind*, for mankind to be able to solve the complex problems afflicting all the nations of the world. For instance, he is utterly incapable of achieving world peace.

Why?

What Knowledge?

We must now examine what NO ONE understands. Remember, man is made of flesh. But he has another *non-physical*, critically important component that must be explained. The apostle Paul wrote, “For what man knows the things of a man, save the *spirit of man* which is in him? Even so the things of God knows no man, but the *Spirit of God*” (I Cor. 2:11).

Do not try to “interpret” this verse. Let it interpret itself. Accept it for what it says. This verse identifies TWO

different kinds of spirit—the “Spirit of God” and the “spirit of man.” They are not the same. Each provides a different function in acquiring knowledge.

Human knowledge (“the things of a man”) is acquired because God has given men a human spirit—the *spirit in man*. Paul’s inspired statement also makes clear that spiritual knowledge (“the things of God”) can only be acquired by the presence of the *Spirit of God*. Even this very knowledge is in itself truly amazing! Think of it this way. Virtually no one has the knowledge about HOW either *physical* or *spiritual* knowledge is acquired!

It is the false doctrine of evolution that holds scientists and educators as captives, completely unable to understand the knowledge described here.

The book of Job plainly states, “*But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding*” (32:8). This confirms what Paul said. This identifies that there is a spirit in man, while recognizing spiritual understanding (knowledge) comes from God—“the Almighty.”

Animals do not have the spirit in man. Animal *brains* are entirely different from human *minds*. Humans are given the spirit of man from conception. It allows them, through use of the five senses, to acquire and retain knowledge. Without this unseen spirit element, man would be just another dumb beast. But he is made in the image of God and has been given the power to acquire, retain and use knowledge for all kinds of purposes.

All human beings were created by God to receive two completely different spirits. One comes at conception, and the other comes by an entirely different means. Without the Spirit of God, people are literally “not all there.” Their existence remains limited to what they can acquire on their own without God’s help.

Earlier, we left off talking about the Tree of Life. Let’s now return to it, remembering that Adam was offered the opportunity to eat of this Tree.

Delivered From Death Penalty

Man is not naturally headed toward eternal life. He is headed toward DEATH! Human beings live approximately 70-80 years, and in some parts of the world much less. A few manage to live longer, but all eventually die. Yet, this was never God’s original purpose. God wants everyone to experience life for all eternity.

God intends that *all* human beings ultimately receive His Holy Spirit. He wants it to eventually enter *all* minds. Let’s learn what role this SECOND spirit component plays, and how it works with the spirit in man. Notice what Paul wrote: “The Spirit [the Holy Spirit] itself bears witness *with* our spirit [spirit in man], that we are the children of God: And if *children*, then heirs; *heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ*” (Rom. 8:16-17). Two spirits are described here. Notice that God’s Spirit works “with” the human spirit to bring human beings to salvation as “joint-heirs with Christ.” It is this Spirit that Adam was offered and would have received had he eaten of the Tree of Life!

In I Corinthians 2, Paul also said, “But the *natural man receives not* the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: *neither can he know them*, because they are spiritually discerned” (vs. 14). This is an enormously important verse. It is not possible for human beings to understand spiritual knowledge—spiritual understanding. Such things can only seem “foolish” to a mind that *cannot* “spiritually discern.” No matter how intelligent or talented a person may be, without the Spirit of God, it can be said that they have a *spiritual* I.Q. of *zero*!

None of the problems common to individuals or nations can be properly addressed and resolved without the involvement of the Holy Spirit at work in minds. Human intelligence and ingenuity are insufficient.

Even attempting to tell people that they do not have this spiritual component is a useless exercise, if God is not opening their minds (John 6:44, 65). It will seem foolish to them because even *this* information is “spiritually

discerned.” The more intelligent, self-reliant and accomplished the person is, the more foolish it will probably seem to him to be told that his mind is incomplete.

If Adam had eaten of the Tree of Life, he would have received the Spirit of God. He would have learned the way of love—the “give” way instead of the “get” way of life practiced by this world. The Bible says that “love is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom. 13:10), and that the “love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy [Spirit]” (Rom. 5:5).

Romans 8:6 states, “For to be carnally [physically] minded is *death*; but to be SPIRITUALLY MINDED IS LIFE AND PEACE.” If Adam had received the Spirit of God, he would have had life inherent within him. He would have been an “inheritor” with Christ as much as any true Christian today. He would have also known the way to peace. This is absolutely remarkable understanding—unknown to all but a scattered few on earth today. It has not been understood until our time!

Great Confusion

Paul wrote, in I Corinthians 14:33, “For God is not the author of *confusion*, but of *peace*, as in all churches

of the saints.” In verse 40, he added, “Let all things be done *decently* and in *order*.” It is God’s will that there be order and structure instead of disorder, peace instead of war, decency instead of indecency and clear understanding instead of confusion.

Now we ask crucial questions: *Why* is this world filled with confusion? *Why* is it in such a terrible state of disorder? *Why* do disorder and confusion permeate religion, education, values, morals, ethics, philosophy, politics and government? *Why* have men not been able to answer life’s most important questions?

This world is filled with disease, war, famine, ignorance, poverty, pollution, hatred, crime, immorality, corruption, misery and unhappiness! *Why* can world leaders not solve these problems? Is it because they do not know the One who has the solutions? Is it because they do not know where to find the answers?

Is it because the devil is playing a far greater role than realized?

These are vital questions. They require straightforward, plain truth answers. You will hear us say, “Blow the dust off your Bible! Examine it carefully and see the real truth that has always been on its pages.” You will hear

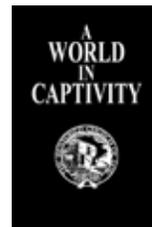
us repeat, “Don’t believe us just because we say something, but rather believe it if you see it proven in your Bible.”

The plain truth is that the Bible contains the answers to these towering questions! However, none are what is commonly taught. From as early as Sunday school, most have been taught to believe ideas that everyone *assumes* are in the Bible. Prepare to be surprised—shocked—at what it really has to say about this fallen angel of whom so much is said but so little is correctly known and understood!

Paul wrote, “PROVE all things; hold fast that which is good” (I Thes. 5:21) and “PROVE what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2).

Will you do this?

To examine the above questions and how they relate to the devil—including looking at verses that describe *who* and *what* he is—read our booklet *A WORLD IN CAPTIVITY*. □



SUGGESTED READING:

An unseen *KIDNAPPER* holds humanity hostage and has convinced his captives that he is a benefactor. Yet, events of staggering magnitude will soon shock the world—changing everything!

WATER

Continued from page 10

in recent years, affecting more than 50 million people and killing at least 2 million. This year, a spokesman for the United Nations’ Food and Agricultural Organization warned that 11 million people living in East Africa would die unless a massive relief effort commenced immediately.

Severe drought in northern Kenya, southern Ethiopia and southwest Somalia has caused livestock to become practically worthless. “I have walked for three days to bring these animals here, and now I have to sell them at whatever price I am offered because they will not be strong enough to walk back again,” said Hussein Aden, age 25 (“Africa: Economies

Worst Placed to Cope With Knock-On Effects of Drought,” *UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*).

Growing water scarcity in China could threaten economic expansion. The nation became a net food importer in 2004 due to both land and water shortages. While the present situation cannot be referred to as a crisis, increased drought (common in the north) and floods (common in the south) could quickly change the situation.

As all nations attempt to cope with growing populations, changing weather patterns and shrinking water reserves, water will become a point of contention. The UN acknowledges that “hot spots” of conflict between nations will probably result. Here are just a few examples:

■ Israel and Jordan have had past disagreements about water ownership and use, though a treaty in 1994 somewhat cooled tensions.

■ The tiny Jewish state occupies and controls the headwaters of the Jordan River, much to the dissatisfaction of Syria and Jordan. (One cause of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war was said to be water.)

■ The waters of the Blue Nile have long been a source of heated contention between Egypt and Ethiopia. Egypt’s very existence is dependent on the Nile, which supplies 98% of its water needs.

■ In Turkey, the Southeast Anatolia Project is poised to divert half of the flow of the Euphrates River.

In short, water scarcity can lead to the exchange of strong words, saber-rattling—and even armed conflict. In

a world of competing nations where the powerful exploit the weak, water can and will be used as an excuse to wage war. Such has been the legacy of mankind.

While some, through science and organizations such as the United Nations, vainly attempt to solve the world's water problem, the Bible reveals that dark times are immediately ahead. As prophetic trends, caused by man's disobedience to his Creator, worsen—as droughts and famines increase and spread—wars among nations will arise. On the heels of such wars will come more droughts and famines, of even greater intensity (Matt. 24:6-7; Rev. 6:4-6).

Solutions

Will science and engineering be able to solve the growing scarcity of water throughout the earth? Will men somehow put aside their differences, and work together to solve this threatening problem through cooperation and technical advancement? Will the nations of the West, including the United States, be affected?

While catastrophic drought, and the starvation that accompanies it, appears to be restricted to largely the poverty-stricken areas of the world, the

number of nations experiencing water shortages *will* increase. God's Word proclaims that even the richest nations of the earth—those that possess the birthright blessings (Gen. 22:16-17; 35:11; 48:18-20)—will also soon find themselves in times of scarcity. (Our book *AMERICAN AND BRITAIN IN BIBLE PROPHECY* explains what these blessings are—and why they are being removed).

First, this is to occur in the form of *too much* rain in one area, and *too little*: “And also I have withheld the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: One piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered” (Amos 4:7).

These regionally confined and relatively mild droughts will increase in intensity until complete drought, famine and scarcity suddenly engulf the land (Lev. 26:19). God will bring this calamity upon the modern nations descended from ancient Israel as punishment for rejecting Him and His way of life! The great Creator of the universe controls the weather. God uses weather and other means as instruments to chastise His rebellious chil-

dren, who will not listen and follow Him.

Yes, the nations of the world *could* prosper in abundance—if only they would turn from their rebellion against the God who made them! Our Creator promises to provide rain in due season, necessary for abundant crops and general economic prosperity (Isa. 35:1).

Water in Abundance Soon to Come

God does not delight in men's suffering: “Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Says the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?” (Ezek. 18:23). He calls upon all nations to repent—change—and obey His laws and walk in all His ways.

Sadly, it is in man's nature to rebel against his Maker—to reject God's warnings of punishment.

However, individuals *can* escape! God promises physical blessings and protection *now*—in this life!—to those who choose to come out of the world (Rev. 18:4) and its ways.

Yet the GREATEST NEWS is that Jesus Christ will soon return to establish His perfect government on the earth. Peace and widespread prosperity—*along with abundant natural resources for all*—will result (Isa. 9:6-7; 35:6-7). □

A BODY OF WATER

The human body is around 72% water, the human brain is nearly 85% and blood 82%. No wonder one's survival can extend for weeks without food, but usually only a few days without water.

The recommended daily amount of this marvelous fluid required for drinking is said to be around 3.3 liters of water for women and 4.5 for men.

Add sanitation requirements, and the total increases to about 40 liters per person, per day.

Include water for bathing and cooking, and the total skyrockets to an amazing

200 liters per person, per day!

The following guidelines dramatically illustrate our continuous need for water:

■ A 5% loss of body fluids results in thirst, irritability, nausea and weakness.

■ A 10% loss results in dizziness, headache, inability to walk and a tingling sensation in the limbs.

■ A 15% loss results in dim vision, painful urination, swollen tongue, deafness and a numb feeling in the skin.

■ A loss greater than 15% usually results in death.

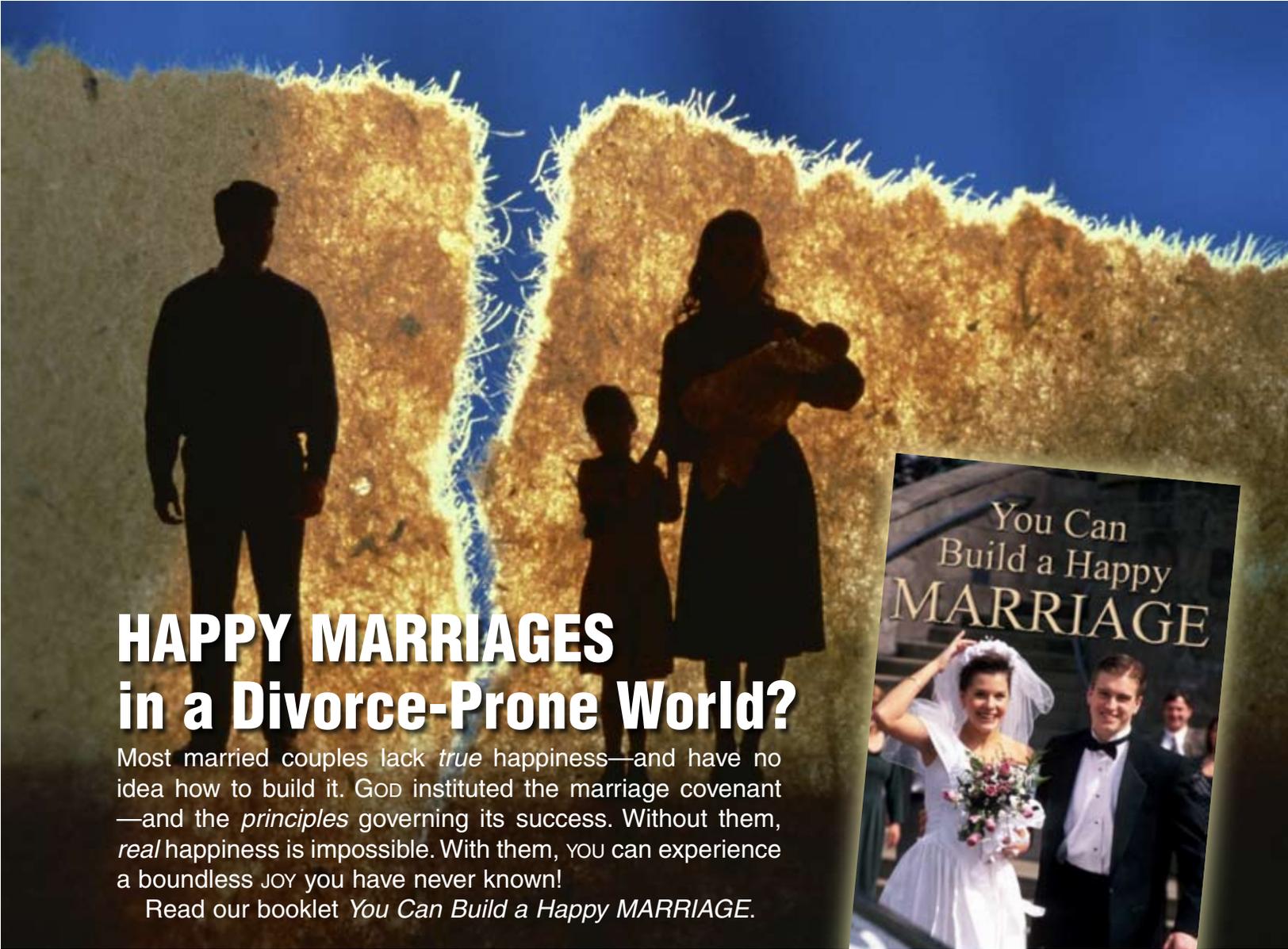
Water is in contact with

cell membranes and protein surfaces, which have a strong attraction to it. Biologists refer to this type of surface as *hydrophilic*.

Many substances, such as oil, do not mix well with water. Cell membranes use this property to control the exchange of nutrients and chemicals with their external environment. This process is possible in large part because of the unusual cohesive nature of water molecules—a property referred to as surface tension.

Water acts as a solvent, a cleaner, a transport vehicle and a shield, as seen in the human body. □

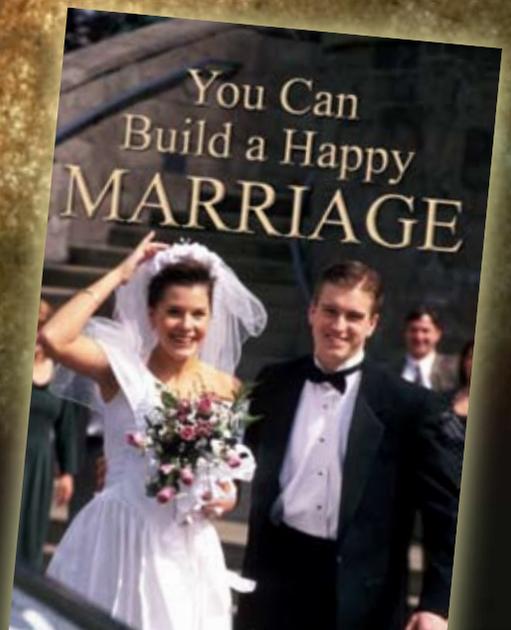




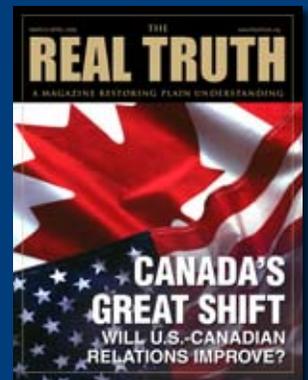
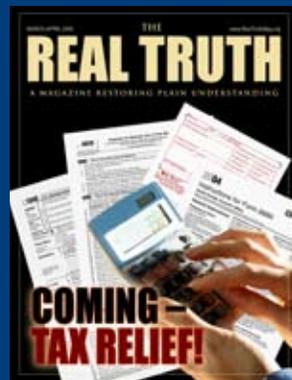
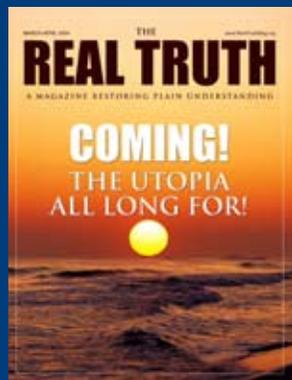
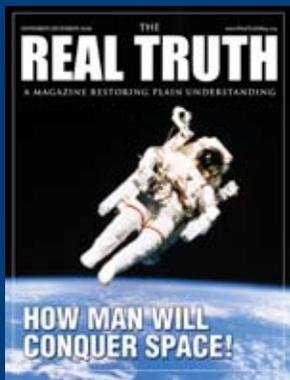
HAPPY MARRIAGES in a Divorce-Prone World?

Most married couples lack *true* happiness—and have no idea how to build it. God instituted the marriage covenant—and the *principles* governing its success. Without them, *real* happiness is impossible. With them, you can experience a boundless joy you have never known!

Read our booklet *You Can Build a Happy MARRIAGE*.



Have you missed out on previous issues?



All issues are available online, to read at your convenience!

W W W . R E A L T R U T H . O R G